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MAR.-APR. NO. 32

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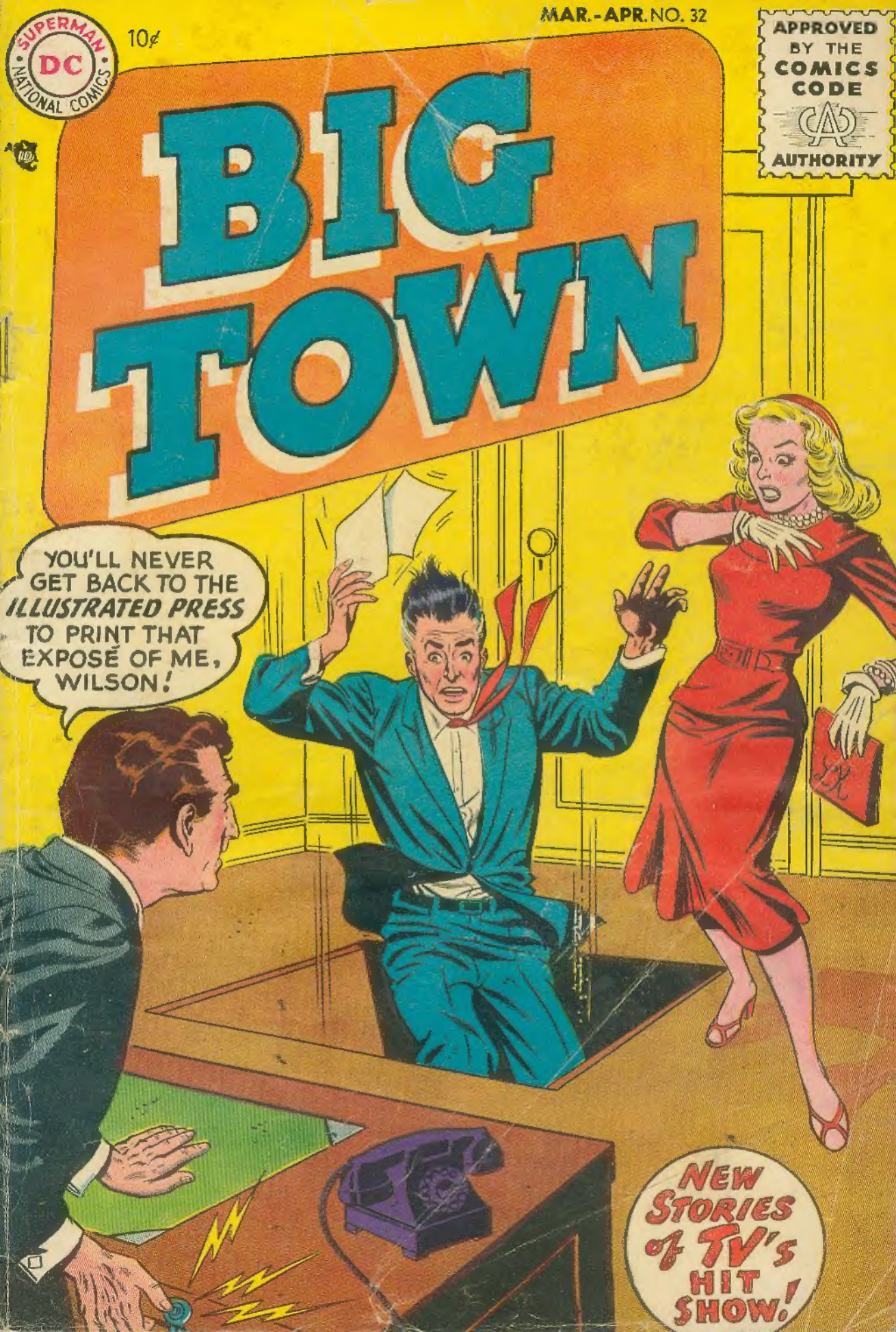
BIG TOWN



NEW STORIES of TV's HIT SHOW!

DRAW ME!

Try for a Free 2-Year Art Scholarship worth $295.00

Imagine how you'll feel, one day soon, if you get a telegram reading "Congratulations. Your drawing wins you complete 2-year home study art course!"

It could happen! You've a chance to win free art training from Art Instruction, Inc., world's greatest home study art school, in this contest. All you have to do is draw the girl's head, five inches high. It's an easy way to find out if you've money-making art talent, and it may start you on an exciting career! You've nothing to lose—everything to gain. Mail your drawing today!

Amateurs only! Our students not eligible. Make copy of girl 5 ins. high. Pencil or pen only. Omit lettering. All drawings must be received by February 28, 1955. None returned. Winners notified.

USE ONLY ONE COUPON

Leave the other coupons so your friends can also enter drawings. Pass this ad on to your friends. See who can win the prize!

ART INSTRUCTION, INC., STUDIO 1505
500 South 4th Street • Minneapolis 15, Minn.
Please enter my attached drawing in your contest.
(Please Print) 3

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____ APT.____

CITY_____ ZONE____

COUNTY_____ STATE_____

OCCUPATION_____

AGE_____ PHONE_____

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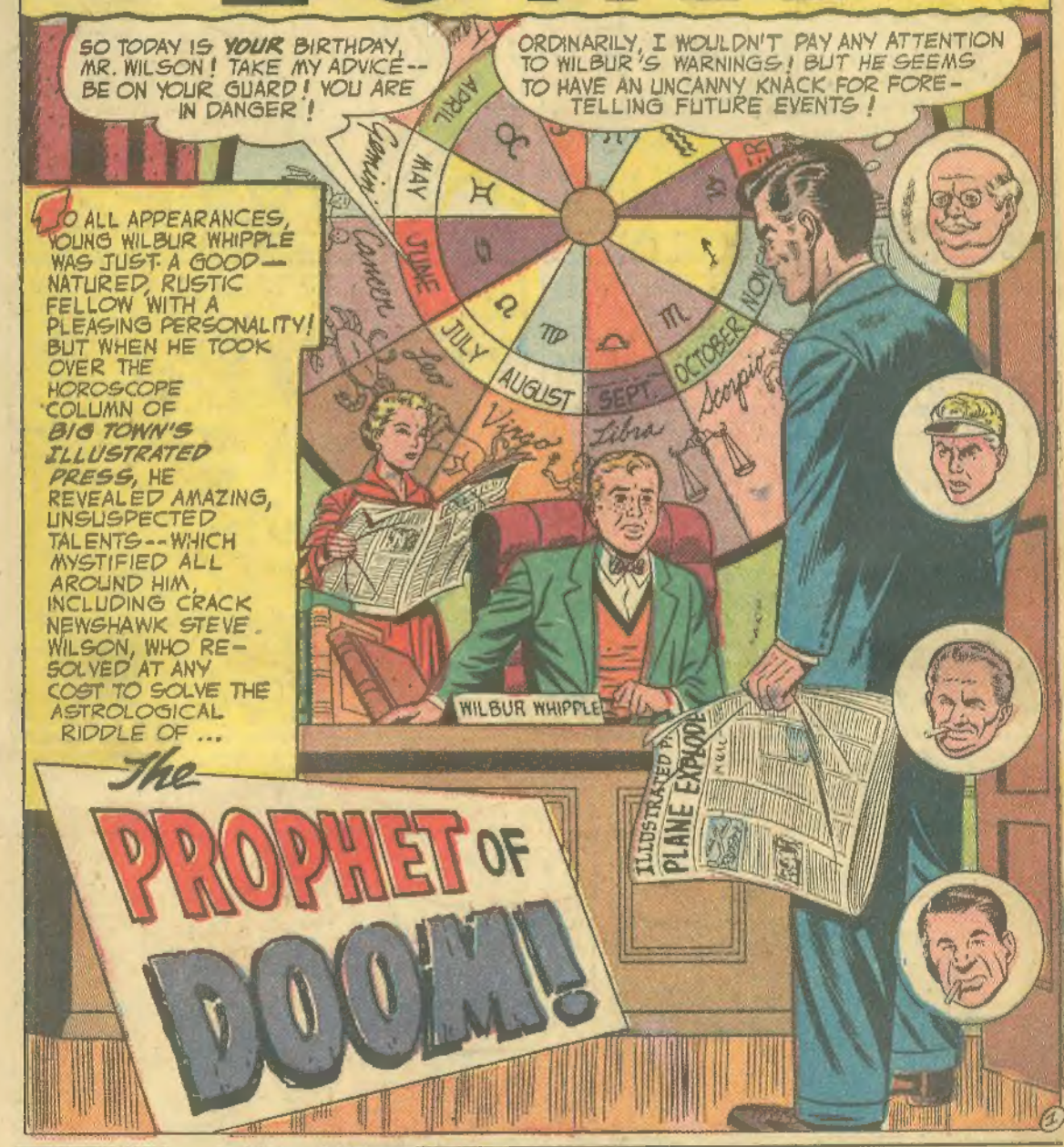
BIG TOWN


SO TODAY IS YOUR BIRTHDAY, MR. WILSON! TAKE MY ADVICE--BE ON YOUR GUARD! YOU ARE IN DANGER!
ORDINARILY, I WOULDN'T PAY ANY ATTENTION TO WILBUR'S WARNINGS! BUT HE SEEMS TO HAVE AN UNCANNY KNACK FOR FORE-TELLING FUTURE EVENTS!
TO ALL APPEARANCES, YOUNG WILBUR WHIPPLE WAS JUST A GOOD-NATURED, RUSTIC FELLOW WITH A PLEASING PERSONALITY! BUT WHEN HE TOOK OVER THE HOROSCOPE COLUMN OF BIG TOWN'S ILLUSTRATED PRESS, HE REVEALED AMAZING, UNSUSPECTED TALENTS--WHICH MYSTIFIED ALL AROUND HIM, INCLUDING CRACK NEWSHAWK STEVE WILSON, WHO RESOLVED AT ANY COST TO SOLVE THE ASTROLOGICAL RIDDLE OF ...
APRIL
MAY
JUNE
JULY
AUGUST
SEPT.
OCTOBER
NOV
Gemini
Cancer
Leo
Virgo
Libra
Scorpio
WILBUR WHIPPLE
ILLUSTRATED PRESS
PLANE EXPLODES

The PROPHET OF DOOM!

BIG TOWN, No. 32, March-April, 1955. Published bi-monthly by NATIONAL COMICS PUBLICATIONS, INC., 480 LEXINGTON AVE., NEW YORK 17, N. Y. Whitney Ellsworth, Editor. For advertising rates address Richard A. Feldon & Co., 205 E. 42nd St., New York 17, N. Y. Entire contents copyrighted 1955 by National Comics Publications, Inc. Except for those who have authorized use of their names, the stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this periodical are entirely imaginary and fictitious, and no identification with actual persons, living or dead, is intended or should be inferred.

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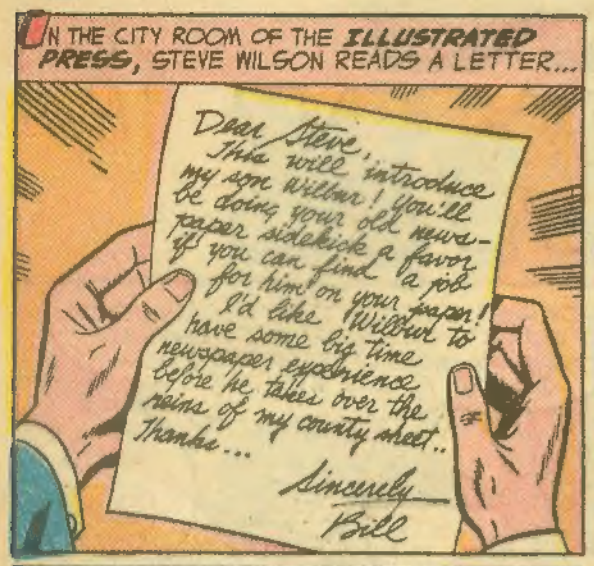
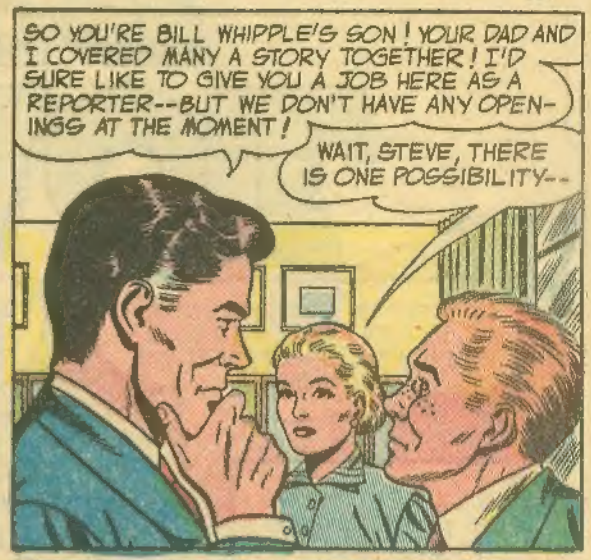
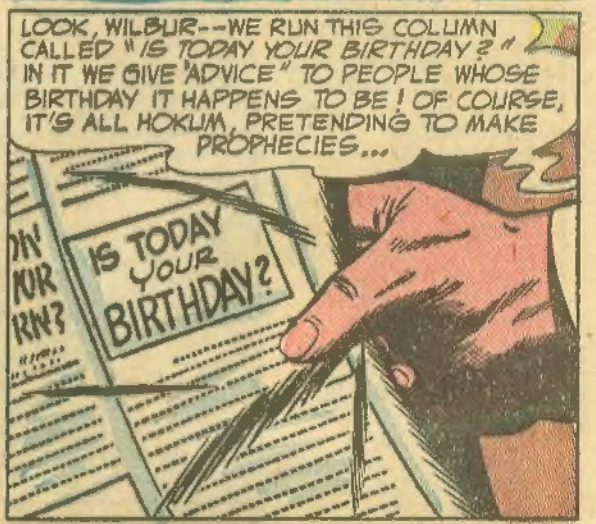
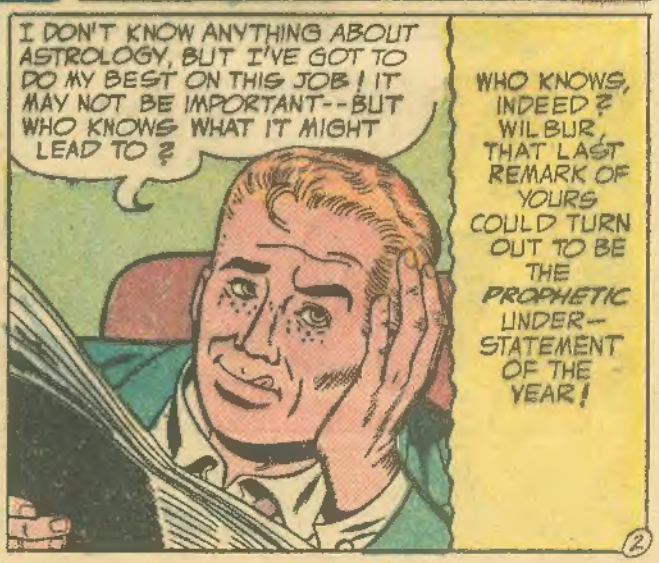

IN THE CITY ROOM OF THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS, STEVE WILSON READS A LETTER...
Dear Steve,
This will introduce my son Wilbur! You'll be doing your old newspaper sidekick a favor if you can find a job for him on your paper! I'd like Wilbur to have some big time newspaper experience before he takes over the reins of my county sheet..
Thanks...
Sincerely
Bill


SO YOU'RE BILL WHIPPLE'S SON! YOUR DAD AND I COVERED MANY A STORY TOGETHER! I'D SURE LIKE TO GIVE YOU A JOB HERE AS A REPORTER--BUT WE DON'T HAVE ANY OPENINGS AT THE MOMENT!
WAIT, STEVE, THERE IS ONE POSSIBILITY--

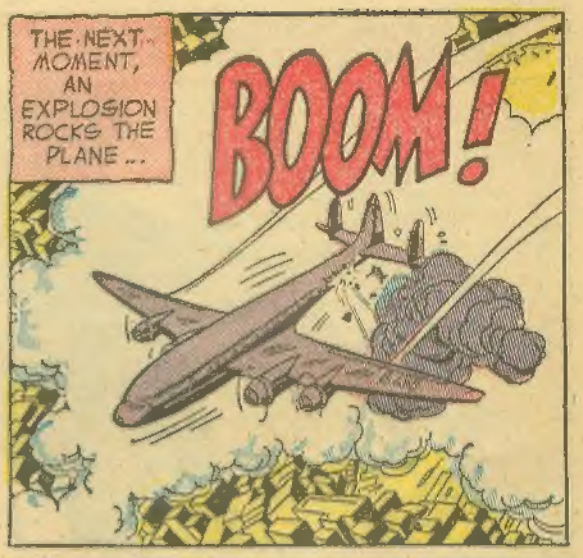
WE DON'T HAVE ANYONE TO DO THE DAILY HOROSCOPE! I'VE BEEN TAKING CARE OF IT THE LAST FEW WEEKS...
SAY, THAT'S RIGHT, LORELEI!


LOOK, WILBUR--WE RUN THIS COLUMN CALLED "IS TODAY YOUR BIRTHDAY?" IN IT WE GIVE "ADVICE" TO PEOPLE WHOSE BIRTHDAY IT HAPPENS TO BE! OF COURSE, IT'S ALL HOKUM, PRETENDING TO MAKE PROPHECIES...
IS TODAY YOUR BIRTHDAY?

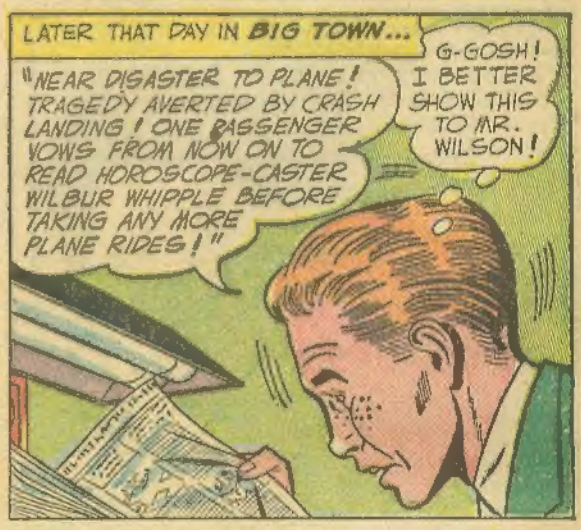
--BUT PEOPLE SEEM TO ENJOY BEING TOLD WHAT TO WATCH OUT FOR--AND HOW THE STARS CONTROL THEIR LIVES! YOU CAN USE THIS DESK!
THANKS, MR. WILSON! I'LL MAKE THE MOST OF THIS OPPORTUNITY!


I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT ASTROLOGY, BUT I'VE GOT TO DO MY BEST ON THIS JOB! IT MAY NOT BE IMPORTANT--BUT WHO KNOWS WHAT IT MIGHT LEAD TO?
WHO KNOWS, INDEED? WILBUR, THAT LAST REMARK OF YOURS COULD TURN OUT TO BE THE PROPHETIC UNDER-STATEMENT OF THE YEAR!

SOME DAYS LATER ON A TRANSCONTINENTAL AIRCRAFT...
I SEE THIS HORO-SCOPE—CASTER SAYS THAT ANYONE BORN TODAY SHOULD STAY OUT OF AIRPLANES! TODAY IS MY BIRTHDAY—BUT YOU DON'T SEE ME WORRIED—
ILLUSTRATED PRESS


THE NEXT MOMENT, AN EXPLOSION ROCKS THE PLANE...
BOOM!

PLEASE KEEP YOUR SEATS, FOLKS! WE'RE GOING TO MAKE AN EMERGENCY LANDING!


LATER THAT DAY IN BIG TOWN...
"NEAR DISASTER TO PLANE! TRAGEDY AVERTED BY CRASH LANDING! ONE PASSENGER VOWS FROM NOW ON TO READ HOROSCOPE-CASTER WILBUR WHIPPLE BEFORE TAKING ANY MORE PLANE RIDES!"
G-GOSH! I BETTER SHOW THIS TO MR. WILSON!

--SO I JUST MADE UP THIS WARNING ABOUT AIRPLANES OUT OF MY OWN HEAD! BUT I NEVER DREAMED IT WOULD COME TRUE!
TAKE IT EASY, WILBUR! THIS ITEM IN THE PAPER IS JUST A COINCIDENCE!

B-BUT THAT'S NOT ALL! HERE'S THIS LETTER—THE SAME THING HAPPENED TO ANOTHER MAN—!
IT DID? ER—EXCUSE ME A MINUTE, WILBUR..
RRING!

AS THE ACE NEWSMAN ANSWERS THE PHONE THERE IS A PAUSE AND THEN HIS EYES SHOOT WIDE...
THIS IS PETER CORNING! I'M FROM UPSTATE--AND I WANT TO CONGRATULATE YOUR PAPER ON YOUR ACCURATE HOROSCOPE COLUMN! TODAY IS MY BIRTHDAY! I WAS FLYING HERE IN MY PRIVATE PLANE--NARROW ESCAPE...
WHEN STEVE TELLS WILBUR OF ANOTHER PLANE CRASH...
I--I'M GETTING SCARED, MR. WILSON! MAYBE I CAN SEE INTO THE FUTURE OR SOMETHING!
WILBUR, STOP WORRYING! YOU'LL SEE--FROM NOW ON NONE OF YOUR OTHER PREDICTIONS WILL COME TRUE...
THE NEXT DAY...
ASTROLOGY--BAH!
"IS TODAY YOUR BIRTHDAY? TAKE THE ADVICE OF WILBUR WHIPPLE AND STAY OFF BRIDGES!"
SUDDENLY, THE NEXT MOMENT...
HELP!
A PUZZLED AND CONCERNED STEVE WILSON READS THE NEWS FLASH OF THE NEAR TRAGEDY...
...AND WHEN THEY FISHED THE HALF-DROWNED FELLOW OUT OF THE RIVER, ALL HE KEPT MURMURING WAS... "MY BIRTHDAY...TODAY'S MY BIRTHDAY!"
IT'S HORRIBLE, STEVE!
IT'S ALMOST AS IF WILBUR WHIPPLE HAS SOME KIND OF A--A FATAL TOUCH!
NONSENSE, LORELEI! THAT CAN'T BE THE ANSWER AND I'M GOING TO PROVE IT!
TOMORROW IS MY BIRTHDAY! WHATEVER WILBUR SAYS NOT TO DO, I'M GOING TO DELIBERATELY DO! I'LL SETTLE THE QUESTION OF WHIPPLE'S PROPHETIC POWERS ONCE AND FOR ALL!

MEANWHILE, AT WILBUR'S DESK IN THE CITY ROOM...

GEE WILLIKERS! I'VE GOT TO BE MORE CAREFUL! I MUST MAKE IT HARDER FOR PEOPLE TO ACCIDENTALLY DISOBEY MY PROPHETIC WARNINGS! NOW LET ME SEE... WHAT UNLIKELY THING CAN I PREDICT...?

EARLY THE NEXT DAY AS STEVE READS THE NEW EDITION...

EH?

WILBUR'S WARNING TODAY IS TO KEEP AWAY FROM **SWANS!** GREAT THUNDER! PRACTICALLY THE ONLY PLACE IN **BIG TOWN** WHERE ANYONE COULD GET NEAR A SWAN IS IN MID-TOWN PARK LAKE...

5¢ ILLUSTRA

NATIONS

SHORTLY AFTER THE FAMED NEWSPAPERMAN HAS TAXIED ACROSS TOWN...

I FEEL THIS IS ALL PRETTY SILLY-- AS IF ANYTHING COULD POSSIBLY HAPPEN TO ME IN THIS PEACEFUL PLACE!

THEN, WITHOUT WARNING...

THUD!

HALF-STUNNED, THE CRACK NEWSHAWK BURSTS INTO ACTION--ON PURE INSTINCT ALONE...

HEY! I WHAMMED THIS GUY HARD ENOUGH TO PUT HIM AWAY--

AS STEVE FLINGS HIS ASSAILANT INTO THE LAKE...

HERE COME THE REIN-FORCEMENTS!

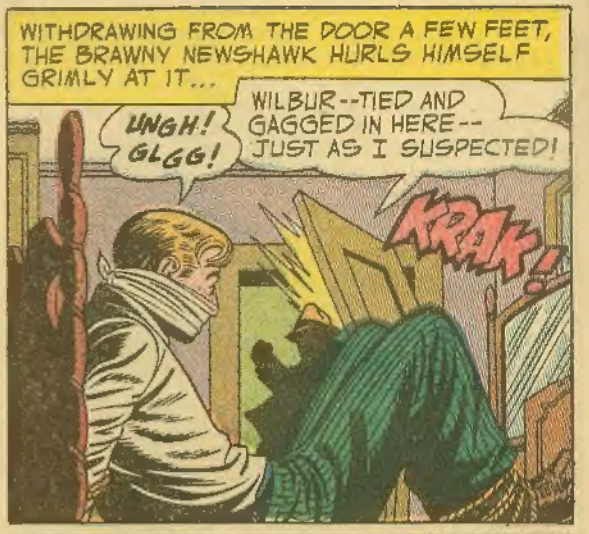
ONE OF US IS GOTTA GET WILSON!

AAAAAA!

POW!
SO THESE THUGS KNOW ME! THIS IS A DELIBERATELY PLANNED ATTACK!
THEN, AT A CRITICAL MOMENT IN THE FIGHT, A SHRILL WHISTLE IS HEARD...
DIDN'T SEE THAT ONE SNEAK UP FROM BEHIND --
THE COPS! RUN FOR IT!
RRRRTEEEEEEE!
SECONDS LATER, AFTER THE HOODLUMS HAVE FLED...
WHY DID THOSE THUGS ATTACK ME? STRANGE THAT IT SHOULD HAVE HAPPENED HERE--JUST AS WILBUR PROPHESIED--!
SHORTLY, IN A SECLUDED CHAMBER IN BIG TOWN'S UNDERWORLD...
YOU DID OKAY, BOYS! EVEN WILSON HIMSELF IS GONNA THINK THERE'S SOMETHING TO THESE WARNINGS IN WILBUR WHIPPLE'S COLUMN! NOW HERE'S THE NEXT STEP IN OUR PLAN...
YOU'RE GOING TO POSE AS A COPY BOY IN THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS, SHORTY! YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO THERE...
BUT SUPPOSE I'M SPOTTED, BOSS?
YOU WON'T BE! NOBODY ON A NEWSPAPER EVER NOTICES THE COPY BOYS! YOU JUST GO THERE AND DO EXACTLY AS WE PLANNED IT OUT, SEE?
OKAY, BOSS...

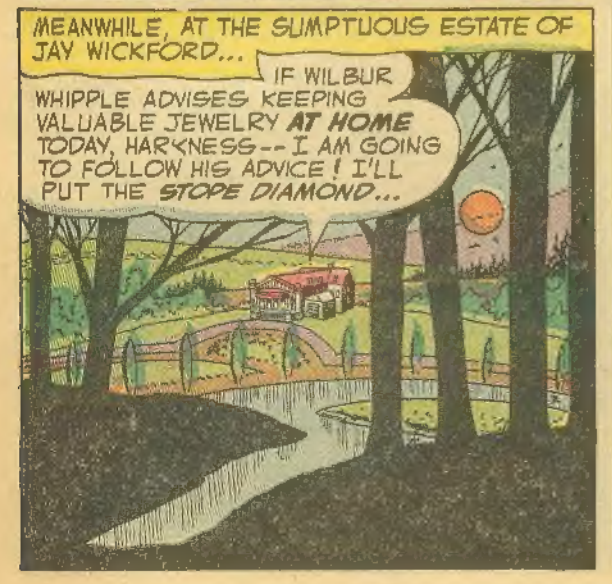
NOT LONG AFTER, IN THE CITY ROOM OF THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS...
COPY BOY! HERE YOU ARE--MY COLUMN FOR TOMORROW!
SO FAR SO GOOD...
THE NEXT MORNING IN THE HOME OF JAY WICKFORD, ONE OF BIG TOWN'S WEALTHIEST CITIZENS...
WILBUR WHIPPLE ADVISES ALL THOSE WHOSE BIRTHDAY IT IS TODAY TO KEEP ANY VALUABLE JEWELRY THEY HAVE AT HOME FOR SAFETY! AND THIS IS MY BIRTHDAY!
A HALF HOUR LATER, THE FINANCIER'S LIMOUSINE PULLS UP IN FRONT OF THE BIG TOWN BANK...
I'VE LEARNED TO RESPECT WHIPPLE'S HOROSCOPE READINGS! HIS WARNINGS HAVE BEEN UNCANNILY ACCURATE! I'M GOING TO REMOVE MY FABULOUS STOPE DIAMOND FROM THE SAFETY DEPOSIT VAULT--AND TAKE IT HOME!
BIG TOWN BANK
MEANWHILE, AT THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS..
LORELEI, DID YOU SEE THIS? ADVISING PEOPLE TO KEEP THEIR JEWELS AT HOME--COULD BE DANGEROUS! HOW COULD WILBUR DO A THING LIKE THIS? WHERE IS HE?
I'VE TRIED TO REACH HIM AT HIS HOTEL...
BUT THE DESK CLERK SAYS WILBUR GAVE STRICT ORDERS THAT HE WAS NOT TO BE DISTURBED THIS MORNING!
NOT TO BE DISTURBED? I'LL SEE ABOUT THAT!
AT A RESIDENTIAL HOTEL NEARBY...
BUT, SIR, YOU CAN'T DISTURB ONE OF OUR GUESTS!
I'M WHIPPLE'S BOSS! IF HE KNOWS WHAT'S GOOD FOR HIM, HE'LL SEE ME ALL RIGHT!

A MOMENT LATER, BEFORE THE DOOR TO WILBUR'S ROOM...
LOCKED!...
WHAT'S THAT NOISE COMING FROM IN THERE--SOUNDS LIKE A MOAN! GOOD GOSH! I THINK I'M BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND--!
UHH--


WITHDRAWING FROM THE DOOR A FEW FEET, THE BRAWNY NEWSHAWK HURLS HIMSELF GRIMLY AT IT...
UNGH! GLGG!
WILBUR--TIED AND GAGGED IN HERE--JUST AS I SUSPECTED!
KRAK!

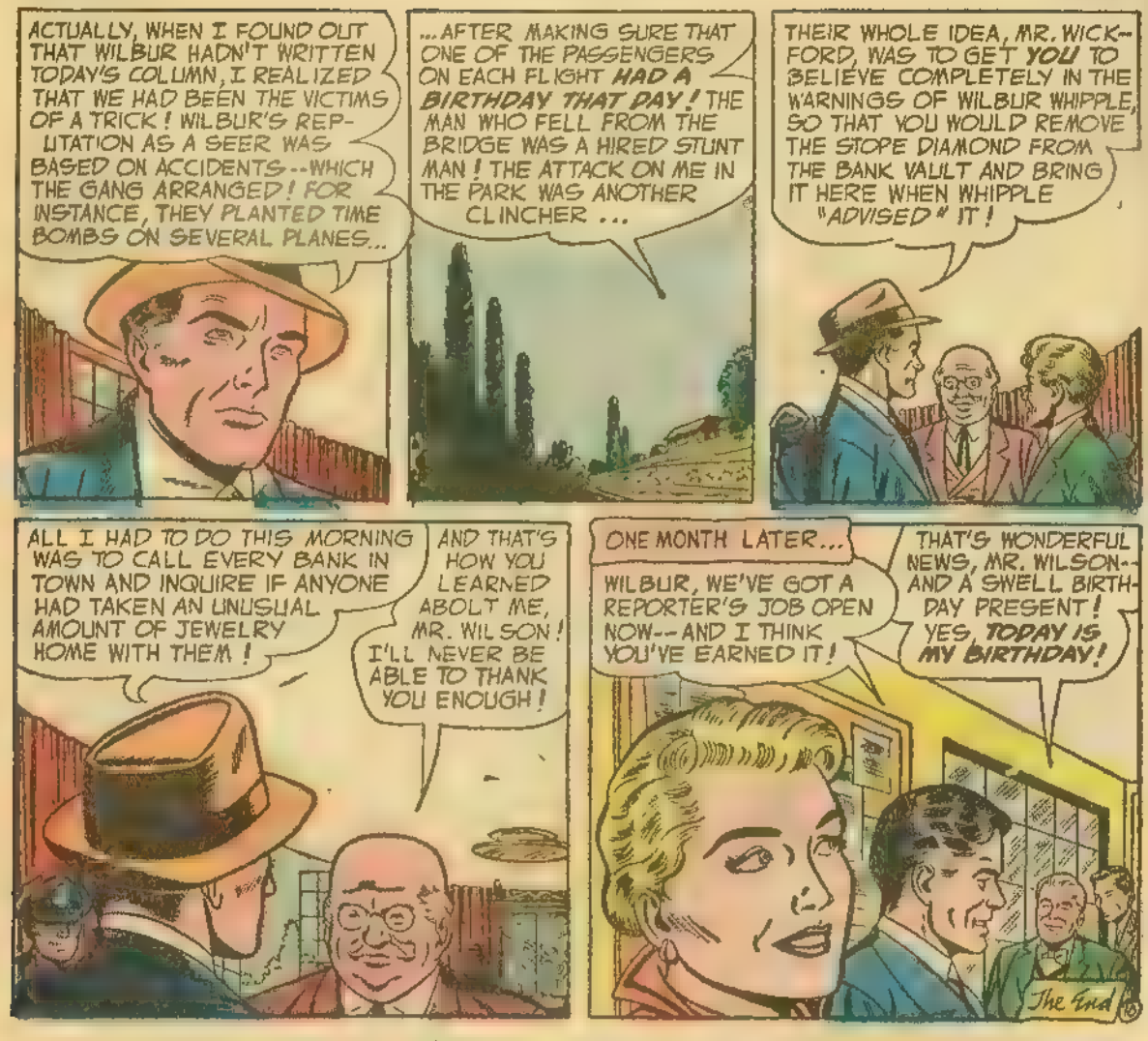
BOY, AM I GLAD YOU GOT HERE, MR. WILSON! SOME HOODLUMS GRABBED ME--!
NEVER MIND THAT NOW, WILBUR! JUST TELL ME ONE THING... DID YOU WRITE A COLUMN ABOUT JEWELRY FOR TODAY'S EDITION?

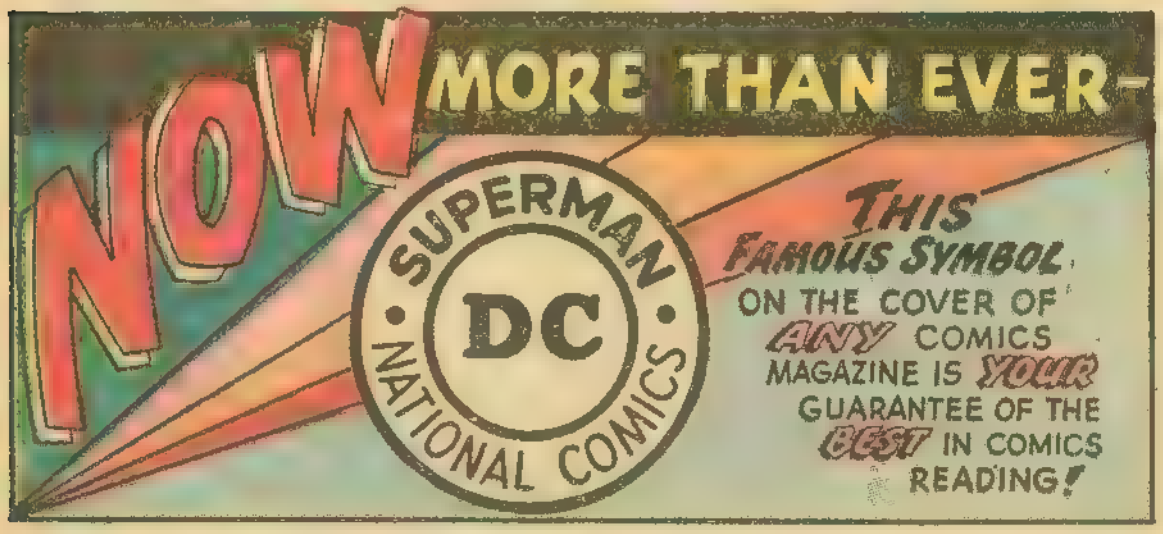
J-JEWELRY? SHUCKS, NO!
HMMM! THINGS ARE BEGINNING TO CLICK INTO PLACE, AT LAST! LISTEN, WILBUR--WE ARE UP AGAINST A DIABOLICALLY CLEVER SCHEME--AND HERE'S WHAT WE'VE GOT TO DO...


MEANWHILE, AT THE SUMPTUOUS ESTATE OF JAY WICKFORD...
IF WILBUR WHIPPLE ADVISES KEEPING VALUABLE JEWELRY AT HOME TODAY, HARKNESS--I AM GOING TO FOLLOW HIS ADVICE! I'LL PUT THE STOPE DIAMOND...

...IN THIS LIBRARY WALL SAFE OF MINE UNTIL--EH? (GASP) HARKNESS, GET THE POLICE!
DON'T MOVE, HARKNESS! YOU STAY PUT TOO, WICKFORD!

WITH A SWIFT MOTION, THE GANGSTER CHIEF GRABS THE STOPE DIAMOND FROM WICKFORD'S HAND...
THIS IS WHAT WE WANT! THE STOPE DIAMOND!
OKAY, NOW LET'S TIE 'EM UP AND GET OUTTA HERE...
BUT BEFORE THE THIEVES CAN LEAVE WITH THEIR LOOT...
JUST AS I FORECAST, WILBUR--A DIAMOND ROBBERY!
WILSON AND THAT KID COLUMNIST!
AS THE NEWS DUO RUSHES AT THE CROOKS.
PILE IN, WILBUR!
(GASP) I--I'M TRYING TO, MR. WILSON!
SOK!
FORTUNATELY THE CRACK NEWSHAWK NEEDS VERY LITTLE HELP FROM ANYONE...
WAK!
SOK!
AT THE END OF A TAUT AND HECTIC 90 SECONDS OR SO...
PHONE THE POLICE, WILBUR! TELL THEM TO GET HERE ON THE DOUBLE!
BOY, YOU SURE TOOK CARE OF THEM IN A HURRY, MR. WILSON!
AFTER THE GANG HAS BEEN TAKEN INTO CUSTODY...
BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW THE GANG WOULD BE HERE, MR. WILSON?
IT WAS REALLY SIMPLE, MR. WICKFORD! I READ WILBUR'S COLUMN!...


ACTUALLY, WHEN I FOUND OUT THAT WILBUR HADN'T WRITTEN TODAY'S COLUMN, I REALIZED THAT WE HAD BEEN THE VICTIMS OF A TRICK! WILBUR'S REPUTATION AS A SEER WAS BASED ON ACCIDENTS--WHICH THE GANG ARRANGED! FOR INSTANCE, THEY PLANTED TIME BOMBS ON SEVERAL PLANES...
...AFTER MAKING SURE THAT ONE OF THE PASSENGERS ON EACH FLIGHT HAD A BIRTHDAY THAT DAY! THE MAN WHO FELL FROM THE BRIDGE WAS A HIRED STUNT MAN! THE ATTACK ON ME IN THE PARK WAS ANOTHER CLINCHER ...
THEIR WHOLE IDEA, MR. WICKFORD, WAS TO GET YOU TO BELIEVE COMPLETELY IN THE WARNINGS OF WILBUR WHIPPLE, SO THAT YOU WOULD REMOVE THE STOPE DIAMOND FROM THE BANK VAULT AND BRING IT HERE WHEN WHIPPLE "ADVISED" IT!
ALL I HAD TO DO THIS MORNING WAS TO CALL EVERY BANK IN TOWN AND INQUIRE IF ANYONE HAD TAKEN AN UNUSUAL AMOUNT OF JEWELRY HOME WITH THEM!
AND THAT'S HOW YOU LEARNED ABOUT ME, MR. WILSON! I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO THANK YOU ENOUGH!
ONE MONTH LATER...
WILBUR, WE'VE GOT A REPORTER'S JOB OPEN NOW--AND I THINK YOU'VE EARNED IT!
THAT'S WONDERFUL NEWS, MR. WILSON--AND A SWELL BIRTHDAY PRESENT! YES, TODAY IS MY BIRTHDAY!
The End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PREPARE NOW FOR 1955 EXAMINATIONS

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Grade School Education Required

RAILWAY MAIL CLERK

Railway Mail Clerks get $3,470.00 the first year of regular employment, paid on the 1st and 15th of each month ($144.58 each pay day). Their pay is automatically increased yearly to $4,270.00 Further promotions can be made to Supt. at Large, with pay up to $6,770.00 a year. Road duty usually is for three to seven days, with equal time off at full pay. Men only.

POSTAL CLERK, CITY OR RURAL CARRIER

Clerks and Carriers now get $3,470.00 the first year of regular employment and automatically increase $100 a year to $4,070.00. Open to men and women 18-50. Clerks and Carriers can be promoted to Foreman, Supt. of Mails, Cashier, Assistant Postmaster, and similar positions with salaries ranging from $4,570.00 to $8,470.00 a year.

OFFICE CLERK, BORDER PATROL, OTHERS

Many other positions are available: Office Clerks ($2,500.00 to $3,795.00 to start), Border Patrolmen ($3,795.00 to start), Immigrant Inspectors ($4,205.00 to start), Stenographer-Typist ($2,750.00 to $3,175.00 to start), Inspector of Customs ($4,205.00). Send TODAY for FREE detailed information on these and other government jobs.

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Rush to me, entirely FREE: (1) Sample test questions; (2) List of available positions; (3) Free copy of your illustrated 36-page book, "How To Get a U.S. Government Job." Tell me how to qualify for one of these jobs.

PRINT PLAINLY—STICK TO POSTAL CARD & MAIL TODAY

Name _____ Age _____

Street _____ Vet? _____

City _____ Zone ____ State _____

☐ If you are under 17, check here for Booklet C

Your UNITED NATIONS at Work!

A TRUE STORY FROM THE FILES OF THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO) OF THE UN

APRIL 1952, NEAR A VILLAGE IN FAR-OFF IRAN...

WHY ARE YOU SAD, FATHER? LOOK AT THE FINE CROPS WE HAVE RAISED.

BAD NEWS, ALI. SWARMS OF LOCUSTS LIKE THIS ARE BLOWING OUR WAY. THEY WILL DEVOUR OUR CROPS. WE CANNOT SAVE THEM.

BUT AT THAT VERY MOMENT IN FAO HEADQUARTERS IN ROME...

BAD NEWS FROM IRAN, SIR. HUGE LOCUST SWARMS. THEY HAVEN'T ENOUGH EXPERTS AND EQUIPMENT TO COMBAT THEM. CROPS OF THE ENTIRE MIDDLE EAST ARE IN DANGER.

NOT IF OUR UN MEMBER NATIONS WILL HELP. SEND WORD IMMEDIATELY.

MIDDLE EAST

FAO DIRECTOR GENERAL

A FEW DAYS LATER...

FATHER, MUST WE LOSE ALL OUR CROPS?

I'M AFRAID THERE IS NO HELP FOR IT, MY SON.

ALI! HASSIM! LOOK! PLANES FROM OUR UNITED NATIONS FRIENDS. THEY ARE SPRAYING OUR FIELDS TO KILL THE LOCUSTS.

U.S.A.

PAKISTAN

LOOK, FATHER, THOUSANDS AND THOUSANDS OF LOCUSTS -- ALL DEAD. AND OUR CROPS STILL LIVE.

YOU ARE RIGHT, SON. PERHAPS WE SHALL NOT GO HUNGRY THIS WINTER, AFTER ALL.

LATER--AT A MEETING OF THE FAO...

WILL THE REPRESENTATIVE FROM IRAN REPORT ON THE LOCUST PLAGUE? IS IT TRUE THAT IT IS NOW UNDER CONTROL?

YES, THANKS TO THE COUNTRIES WHO SENT HELP SO QUICKLY. THE PLANES AND TONS OF INSECTICIDE WORKED MIRACLES, AND THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM FAO WILL HELP US PREVENT FUTURE DISASTERS.

ALI'S FAMILY AND MILLIONS OF OTHERS WERE SAVED FROM MONTHS OF HUNGER BY INTERNATIONAL TEAMWORK. HELPING COUNTRIES TO HELP THEMSELVES IS PART OF THE JOB OF THE FAO, ONE OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

This is your UNITED NATIONS *at work!*

PUBLISHED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE IN COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL SOCIAL WELFARE ASSEMBLY, COORDINATING ORGANIZATION FOR NATIONAL HEALTH, WELFARE AND RECREATION AGENCIES OF THE U. S.

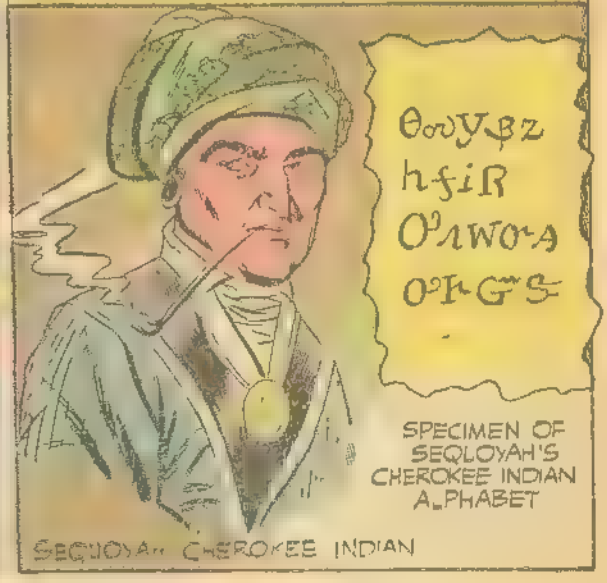
AMAZING NEWSPAPERS!

ONE OF THE MOST PRIZED EDITIONS OF ANY NEWSPAPER IS THE JANUARY 4, 1800 *ULSTER COUNTY GAZETTE* (*KINGSTON, NEW YORK*), WHICH PRINTED THE FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT OF GEORGE WASHINGTON'S DEATH. SINCE THAT TIME, THOUSANDS OF COUNTERFEIT COPIES HAVE BEEN PRINTED OF THIS ISSUE AND SOLD TO GULLIBLE BUYERS. (*THERE ARE ONLY TWO AUTHENTIC COPIES OF THIS ISSUE IN EXISTENCE: ONE IN THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, THE OTHER IN THE ARCHIVES OF THE AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY...*)

THE NEW YORK *JOURNAL OF COMMERCE* OF 1853 WAS THE LARGEST SIZED NEWSPAPER EVER PUBLISHED, CONTAINING ELEVEN WIDE COLUMNS ON A PAGE MEASURING 3 BY 5 FEET. THE NEWS SHEETS WERE NOT EVEN TRIMMED ON TOP AND FOLDING THEM BACK IN ORDER TO READ THE INSIDE PAGES WAS NO EASY ACHIEVMENT...

IN 1852, THE *OREGONIAN*, A PAPER PUBLISHED IN THE OREGON GOLD TERRITORY, PRINTED EXCLUSIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS OF NEW DISCOVERIES OF GOLD. THESE SOUGHT-AFTER ISSUES WERE LATER PEDDLED IN DISTANT CITIES TO EAGER GOLD-HUNTERS FOR AS MUCH AS $10...

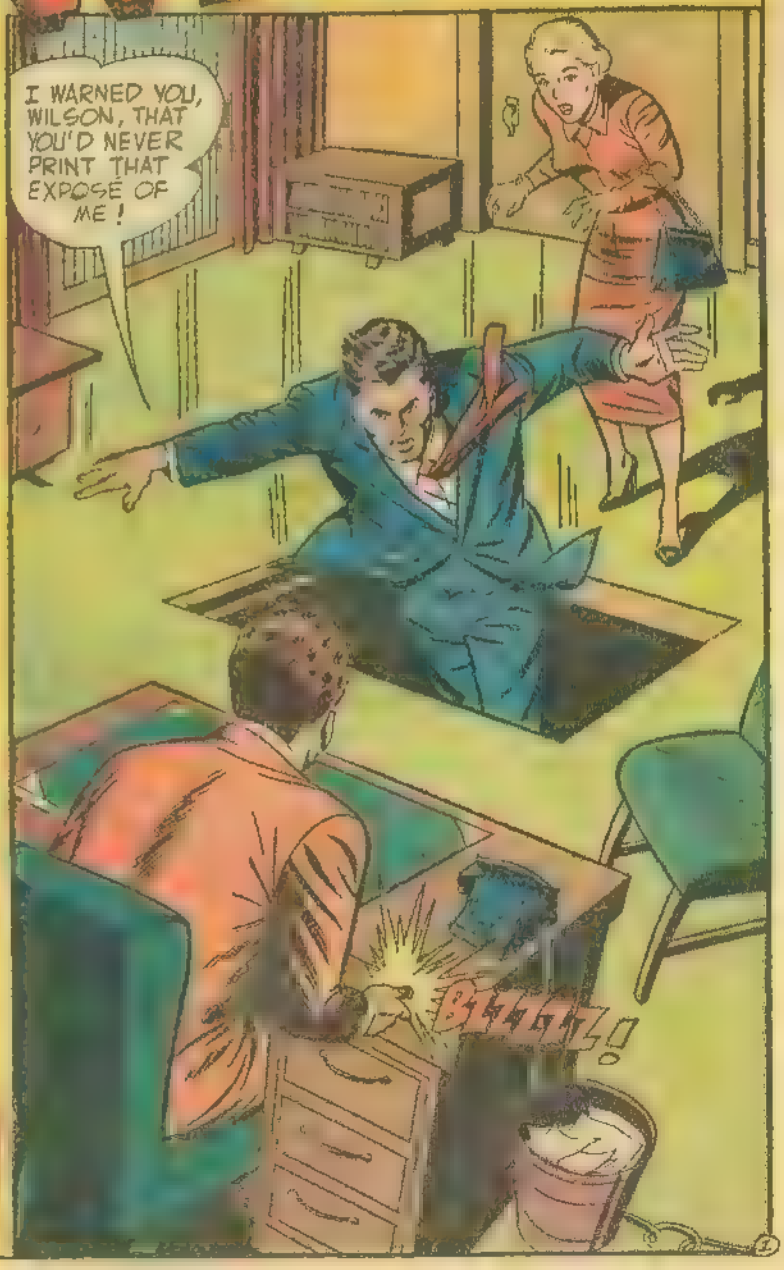
THE *CHEROKEE PHOENIX*, PRINTED AT NEW ECHOTA, GEORGIA, BETWEEN THE YEARS 1828-1834, WAS NOTEWORTHY IN THAT IT WAS PRINTED IN GRAPHIC SYMBOLS DEVISED BY *SEQUOYAH*, TO ENABLE HIS RACE TO READ A PRINTED LANGUAGE...

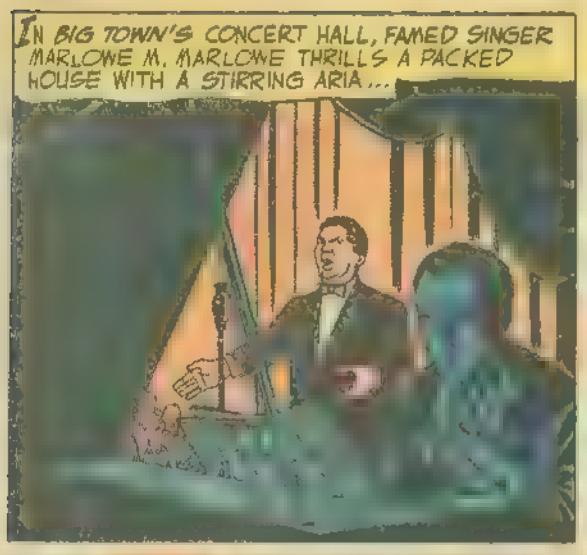


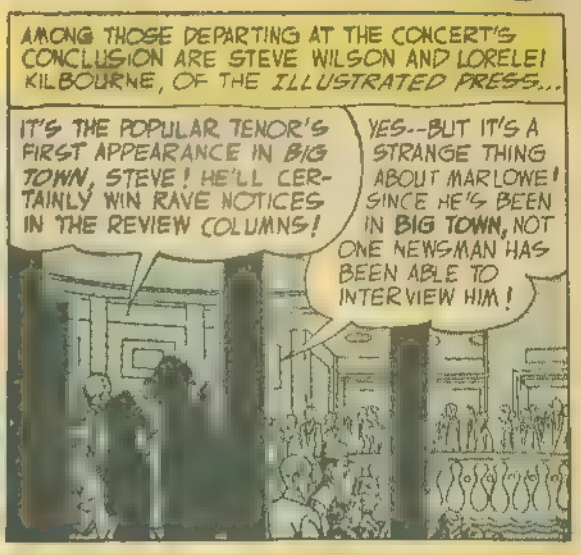
BIG TOWN

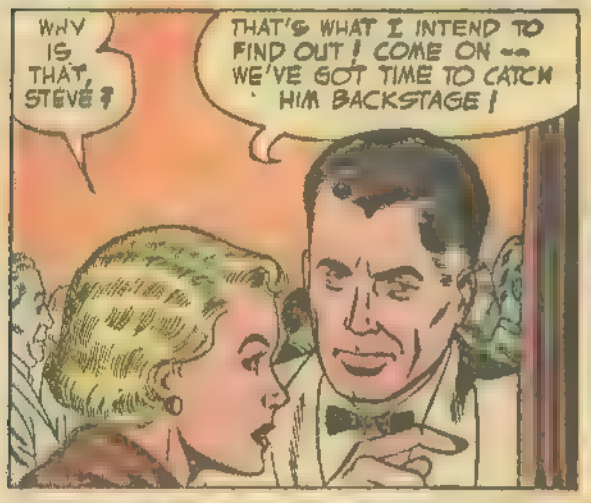
LURKING BEHIND THE BUSY PANORAMIC SCENE OF ANY GREAT CITY ARE COUNTLESS NEWS STORIES--STORIES OF MYSTERY AND INTRIGUE--OF HUMOR AND HEART-ACHE! THESE ARE THE STORIES BROUGHT TO THE FRONT PAGES BY NEWSMEN SUCH AS STEVE WILSON, OF BIG TOWN'S *ILLUSTRATED PRESS!* THEN COMES THAT BIG STORY--THE ONE THAT MUST BE TRACKED DOWN AND PRINTED, BUT AS STEVE LEARNS THIS TIME, IT'S THE AMAZING STORY WITH...

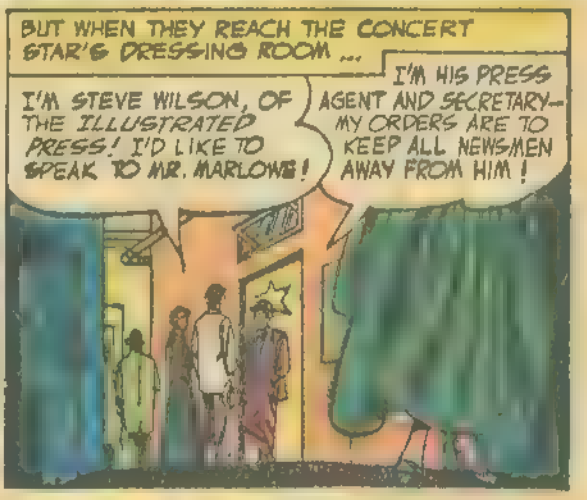
THE VANISHING HEADLINE!

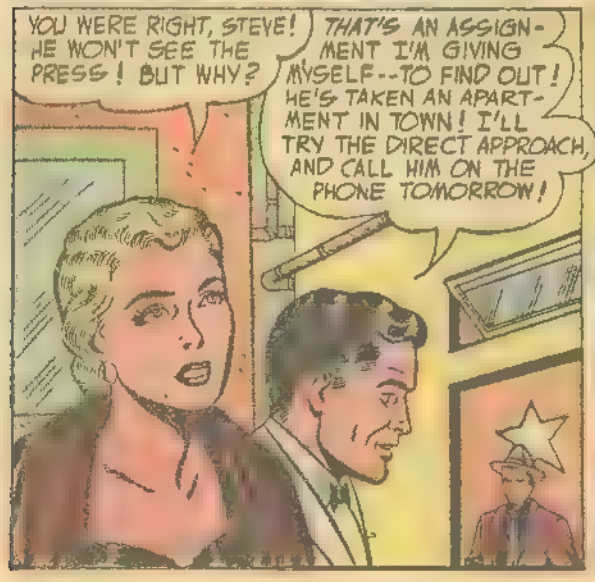


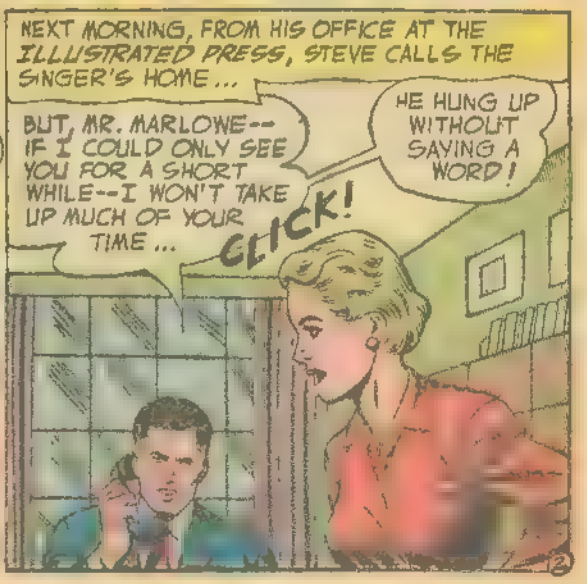

IN BIG TOWN'S CONCERT HALL, FAMED SINGER MARLOWE M. MARLOWE THRILLS A PACKED HOUSE WITH A STIRRING ARIA...


AMONG THOSE DEPARTING AT THE CONCERT'S CONCLUSION ARE STEVE WILSON AND LORELEI KILBOURNE, OF THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS...
IT'S THE POPULAR TENOR'S FIRST APPEARANCE IN BIG TOWN, STEVE! HE'LL CERTAINLY WIN RAVE NOTICES IN THE REVIEW COLUMNS!
YES--BUT IT'S A STRANGE THING ABOUT MARLOWE! SINCE HE'S BEEN IN BIG TOWN, NOT ONE NEWSMAN HAS BEEN ABLE TO INTERVIEW HIM!


WHY IS THAT, STEVE?
THAT'S WHAT I INTEND TO FIND OUT! COME ON -- WE'VE GOT TIME TO CATCH HIM BACKSTAGE!


BUT WHEN THEY REACH THE CONCERT STAR'S DRESSING ROOM ...
I'M STEVE WILSON, OF THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS! I'D LIKE TO SPEAK TO MR. MARLOWE!
I'M HIS PRESS AGENT AND SECRETARY-- MY ORDERS ARE TO KEEP ALL NEWSMEN AWAY FROM HIM!


YOU WERE RIGHT, STEVE! HE WON'T SEE THE PRESS! BUT WHY?
THAT'S AN ASSIGNMENT I'M GIVING MYSELF--TO FIND OUT! HE'S TAKEN AN APARTMENT IN TOWN! I'LL TRY THE DIRECT APPROACH, AND CALL HIM ON THE PHONE TOMORROW!

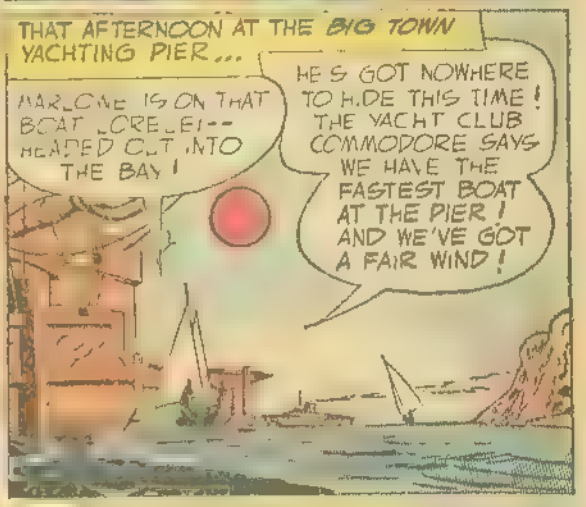

NEXT MORNING, FROM HIS OFFICE AT THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS, STEVE CALLS THE SINGER'S HOME...
BUT, MR. MARLOWE-- IF I COULD ONLY SEE YOU FOR A SHORT WHILE--I WON'T TAKE UP MUCH OF YOUR TIME...
CLICK!
HE HUNG UP WITHOUT SAYING A WORD!

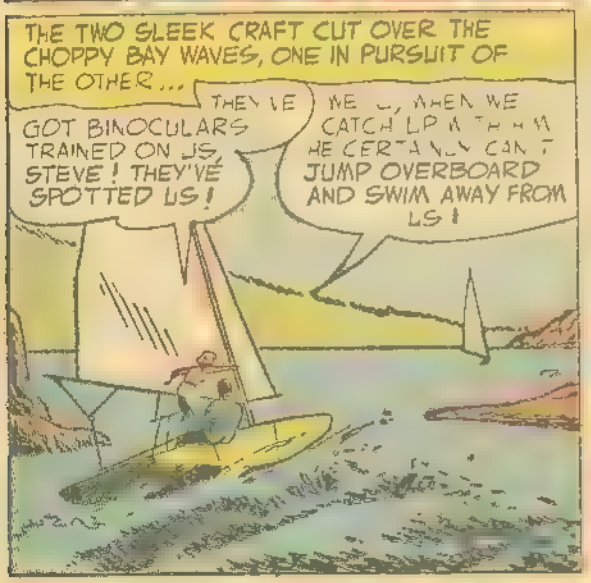
THAT'S NOT GOING TO STOP ME! I'LL USE ANOTHER APPROACH! DIG UP EVERYTHING YOU CAN ON MARLOWE FROM THE FILE MORGUE!
FOR HOURS, STEVE PORES OVER EVERY PRINTED STORY ABOUT THE TENOR ...
FIND OUT ANYTHING, STEVE?
YES, LORRY! MARLOWE IS AN AVID HORSEBACK RIDER--WHICH MEANS WE'RE BOTH GOING RIDING EARLY TOMORROW MORNING!
THE NEXT MORNING, ALONG THE BRIDLE PATH IN BIG TOWN PARK...
I WAS RIGHT! THERE'S MARLOWE NOW, WITH HIS SECRETARY! WE'LL KEEP CLOSE TO THEM, AND WHEN I GET MY CHANCE, I'LL TALK TO HIM!
STEVE! THEY'VE BROKEN INTO A FULL GALLOP! MAYBE THEY'VE SEEN US!
RIDE FASTER, LORRY! WE DON'T WANT TO LOSE THEM NOW!
FOR SEVERAL MINUTES THE PURSUIT CONTINUES THROUGH THE PARK...
WE'RE GAINING! IN A MOMENT WE'LL KNOW WHY NEWSMEN CAN'T SQUEEZE AN INTERVIEW OUT OF MR. MARLOWE!
3

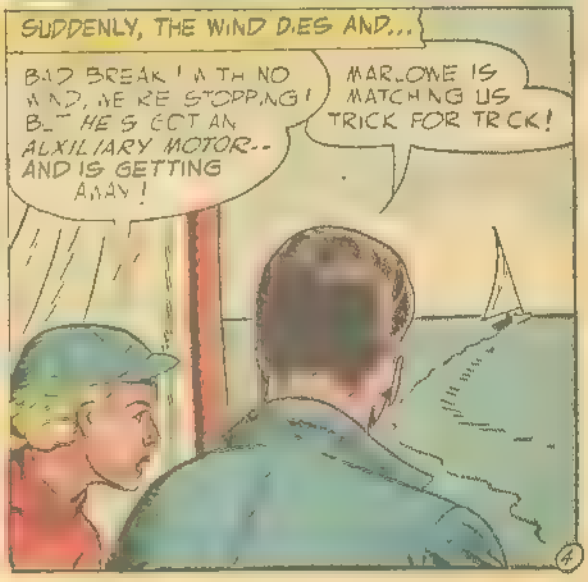
BUT BEFORE THE NEWS DJO CAN OVERTAKE THE ELLS VE SINGER ..
LOOK, STEVE! THEY'RE GETTING INTO THAT CAR!
MARLOWE HAS PREPARED FOR SOMETHING LIKE THIS!

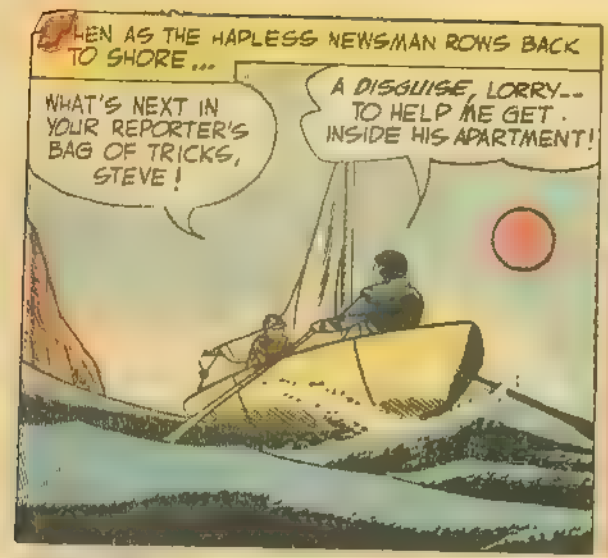
THERE GOES YOUR HANGING HEADLINE STEVE!
THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING OF A BUSY DAY! COME ON-- WE'RE GETTING SOME SAILING TOGS! I'LL EXPLAIN LATER...

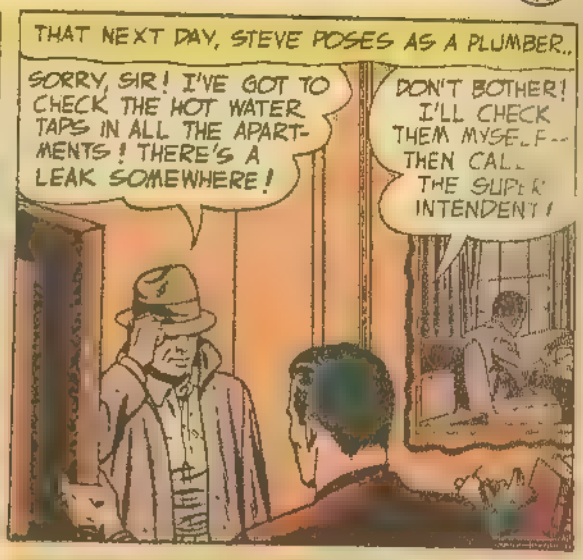
AFTERWARDS, IN A MARINE CLOTHING STORE...
OUR TENOR LIKES SAILING-- SO A-SAILING WE WILL GO!
NOW THIS ASSIGNMENT IS REALLY GETTING INTERESTING!
MARINE

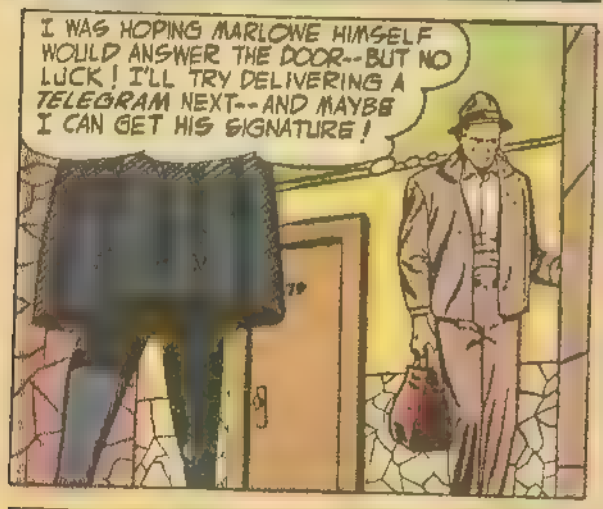

THAT AFTERNOON AT THE BIG TOWN YACHTING PIER...
MARLOWE IS ON THAT BOAT, COREL!-- HEADED OUT INTO THE BAY!
HE'S GOT NOWHERE TO HIDE THIS TIME! THE YACHT CLUB COMMODORE SAYS WE HAVE THE FASTEST BOAT AT THE PIER! AND WE'VE GOT A FAIR WIND!

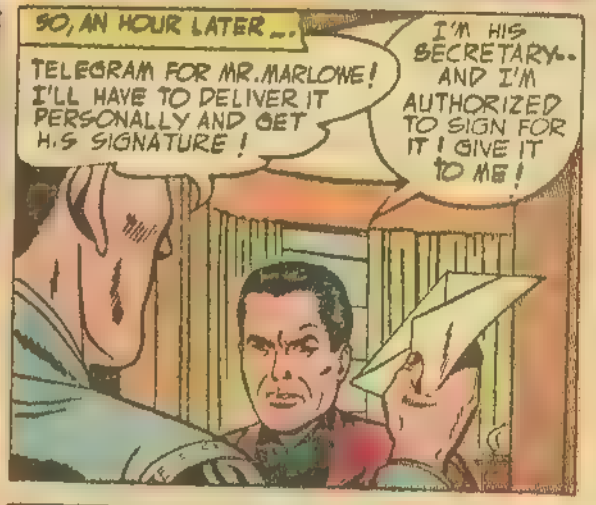

THE TWO SLEEK CRAFT CUT OVER THE CHOPPY BAY WAVES, ONE IN PURSUIT OF THE OTHER...
THEY'VE GOT BINOCULARS TRAINED ON US, STEVE! THEY'VE SPOTTED US!
WELL, WHEN WE CATCH UP WITH HIM HE CERTAINLY CAN'T JUMP OVERBOARD AND SWIM AWAY FROM US!

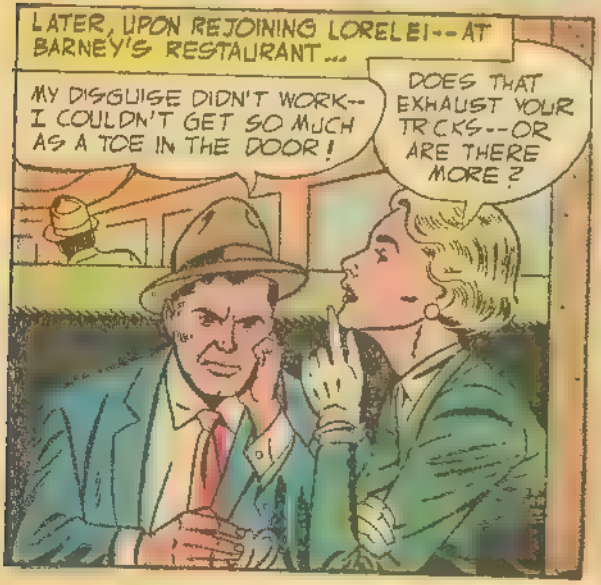

SUDDENLY, THE WIND DIES AND...
BAD BREAK! WITH NO WIND, WE'RE STOPPING! BUT HE'S GOT AN AUXILIARY MOTOR-- AND IS GETTING AWAY!
MARLOWE IS MATCHING US TRICK FOR TRICK!

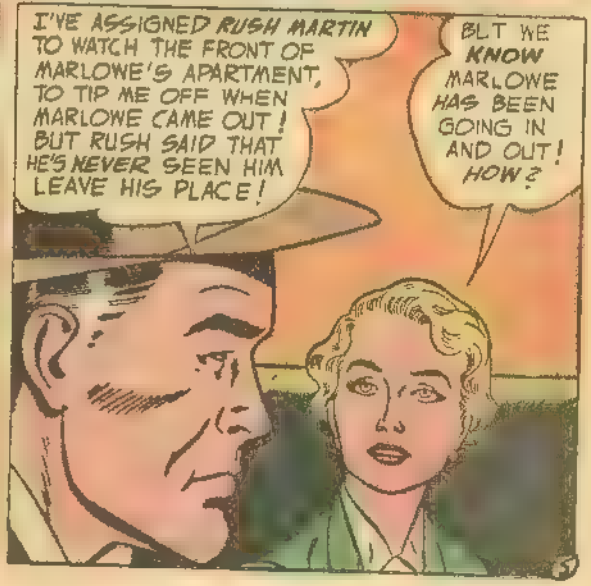

...THEN AS THE HAPLESS NEWSMAN ROWS BACK TO SHORE...
WHAT'S NEXT IN YOUR REPORTER'S BAG OF TRICKS, STEVE!
A DISGUISE, LORRY--TO HELP ME GET INSIDE HIS APARTMENT!

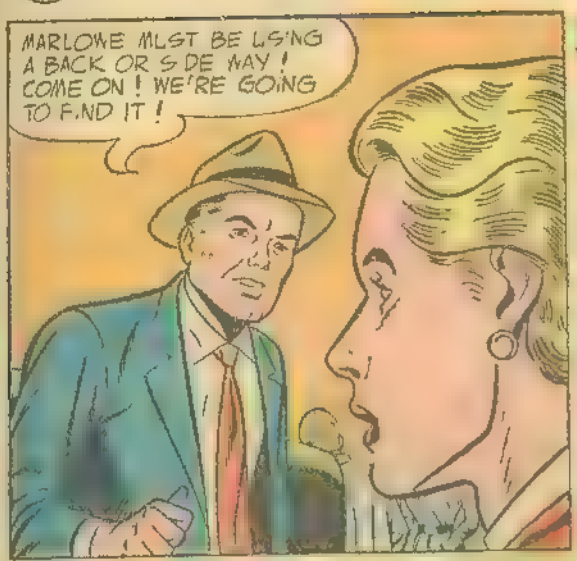

THAT NEXT DAY, STEVE POSES AS A PLUMBER..
SORRY, SIR! I'VE GOT TO CHECK THE HOT WATER TAPS IN ALL THE APARTMENTS! THERE'S A LEAK SOMEWHERE!
DON'T BOTHER! I'LL CHECK THEM MYSELF--THEN CALL THE SUPERINTENDENT!

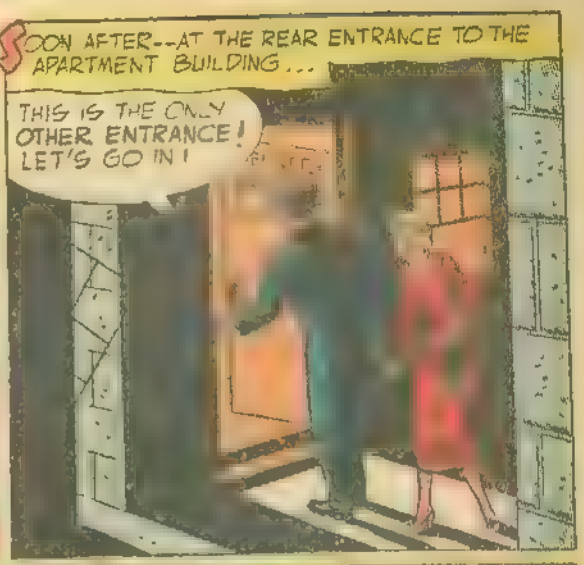

I WAS HOPING MARLOWE HIMSELF WOULD ANSWER THE DOOR--BUT NO LUCK! I'LL TRY DELIVERING A TELEGRAM NEXT--AND MAYBE I CAN GET HIS SIGNATURE!

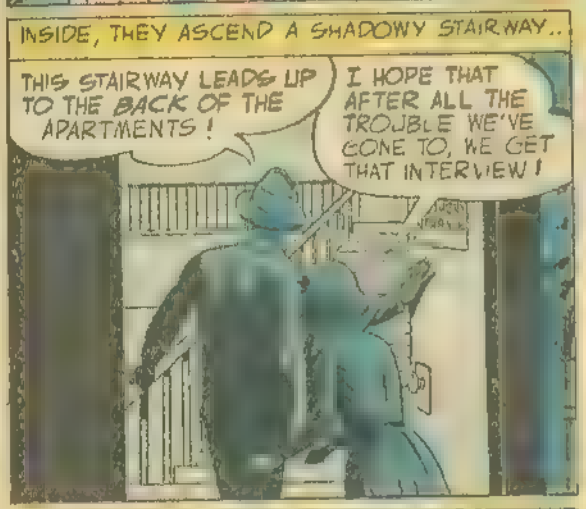

SO, AN HOUR LATER...
TELEGRAM FOR MR. MARLOWE! I'LL HAVE TO DELIVER IT PERSONALLY AND GET HIS SIGNATURE!
I'M HIS SECRETARY.. AND I'M AUTHORIZED TO SIGN FOR IT! GIVE IT TO ME!

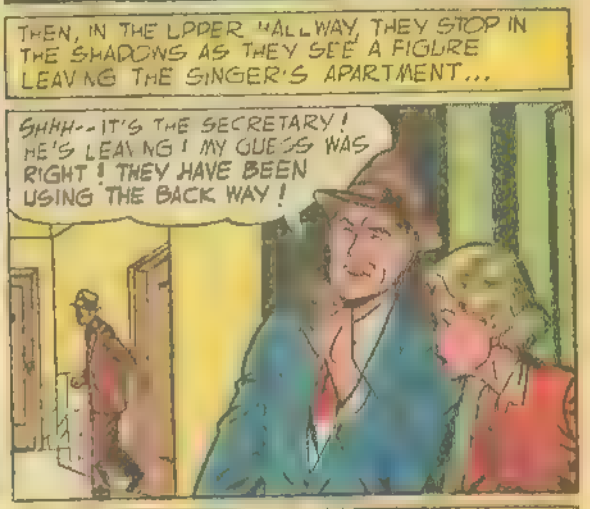

LATER, UPON REJOINING LORELEI--AT BARNEY'S RESTAURANT...
MY DISGUISE DIDN'T WORK--I COULDN'T GET SO MUCH AS A TOE IN THE DOOR!
DOES THAT EXHAUST YOUR TRICKS--OR ARE THERE MORE?

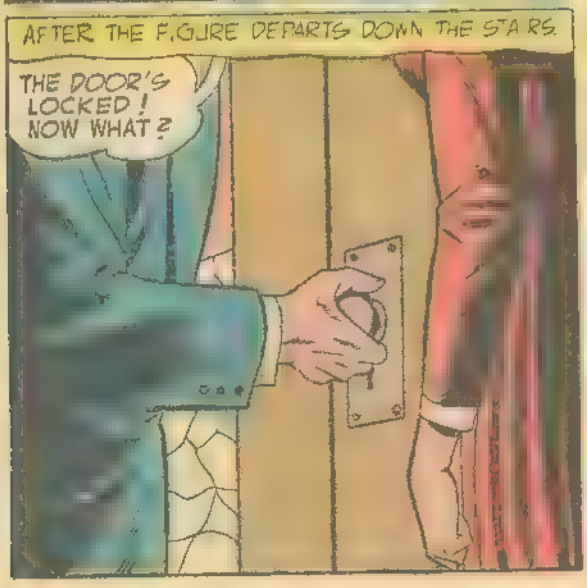

I'VE ASSIGNED RUSH MARTIN TO WATCH THE FRONT OF MARLOWE'S APARTMENT, TO TIP ME OFF WHEN MARLOWE CAME OUT! BUT RUSH SAID THAT HE'S NEVER SEEN HIM LEAVE HIS PLACE!
BUT WE KNOW MARLOWE HAS BEEN GOING IN AND OUT! HOW?

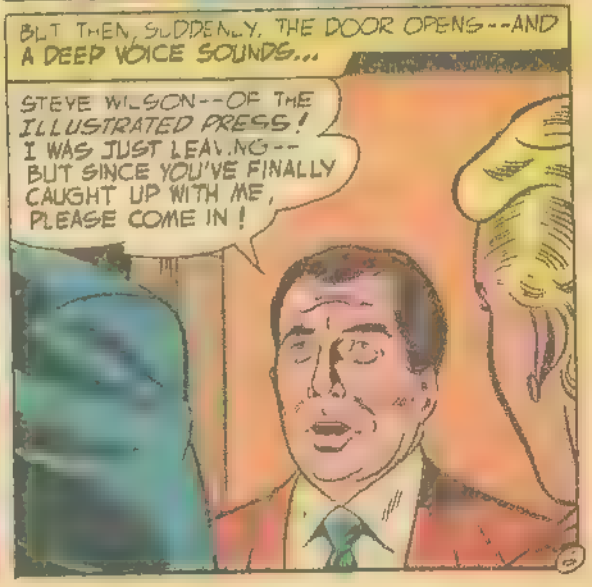

MARLOWE MUST BE USING A BACK OR SIDE WAY! COME ON! WE'RE GOING TO FIND IT!


SOON AFTER--AT THE REAR ENTRANCE TO THE APARTMENT BUILDING...
THIS IS THE ONLY OTHER ENTRANCE! LET'S GO IN!


INSIDE, THEY ASCEND A SHADOWY STAIRWAY..
THIS STAIRWAY LEADS UP TO THE BACK OF THE APARTMENTS!
I HOPE THAT AFTER ALL THE TROUBLE WE'VE GONE TO, WE GET THAT INTERVIEW!


THEN, IN THE UPPER HALLWAY, THEY STOP IN THE SHADOWS AS THEY SEE A FIGURE LEAVING THE SINGER'S APARTMENT...
SHHH--IT'S THE SECRETARY! HE'S LEAVING! MY GUESS WAS RIGHT! THEY HAVE BEEN USING THE BACK WAY!


AFTER THE FIGURE DEPARTS DOWN THE STAIRS
THE DOOR'S LOCKED! NOW WHAT?


BUT THEN, SUDDENLY, THE DOOR OPENS--AND A DEEP VOICE SOUNDS...
STEVE WILSON--OF THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS! I WAS JUST LEAVING--BUT SINCE YOU'VE FINALLY CAUGHT UP WITH ME, PLEASE COME IN!

INSIDE, IN THE STUDY...
FIRST QUESTION: WHERE'S MARLOWE M. MARLOWE?
OKAY, WILSON--I TRIED TO PREVENT YOU FROM REACHING ME FOR AN INTERVIEW, AND I FAILED! AS YOUR REWARD, I'LL GRANT THE INTERVIEW!
AS STEVE TALKS, THE MAN ACROSS FROM HIM SLOWLY, CAUTIOUSLY, REACHES FOR A DESK BUTTON...
I DON'T CARE FOR YOUR BRAND OF HUMOR! I'M MARLOWE M. MARLOWE!
YOU'RE NOT MARLOWE.. MARLOWE IS A TENOR! A TENOR, FOR YOUR INFORMATION, HAS A HIGH VOICE! YOURS IS AS LOW AS A BASS FIDDLE!
THE HAND TOUCHES THE BUTTON--PRESSES IT, AND...
ALL RIGHT--SO I'M NOT MARLOWE! BUT YOU'LL NEVER PRINT THIS EXPOSÉ OF ME!
WHOOSH!
BELLLL
HURTLING DOWNWARDS, STEVE MAKES A DESPERATE GRAB FOR THE EDGE OF THE TRAP DOOR...
THE NEXT MOMENT, LORELEI THROWS HER BAG AT THE OTHER MAN...
HANG ON, STEVE--HANG ON!
THWACK!
ZAMM
THANKS FOR THE BREATHER, LORRY! NOW I'LL DO SOME FIST-THROWING IN MY OWN DEFENSE!

STEVE CLOSES IN, SWINGS HARD.
THAT TRAP-DOOR TRICK ALMOST GOT YOU OUT OF THIS ONE--BUT NOT QUITE!
SOK!
I STILL SAY YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG NUMBER, WILSON!
NOPE--I MADE THE RIGHT CONNECTION--VERY RIGHT!
CONK!!
THEN IF HE'S NOT THE REAL MARLOWE M. MARLOWE--WHERE IS THE SINGER?
IN THE ROOM BELOW THE TRAP DOOR--I SAW HIM AND HIS SECRETARY THERE WHEN I NEARLY DROPPED THROUGH! WE'LL GET THEM OUT!
LATER, WHEN THE SINGER AND HIS SECRETARY ARE FREED...
HE AND HIS CRONY CRASHED IN HERE AND DROPPED US THROUGH THE TRAP DOOR--WHICH WAS ONCE USED BY A MAGICIAN-OWNER OF THIS APARTMENT TO PRACTICE VANISHING ACTS!
THEN, WITH MAKE-UP HE EASILY PASSED HIMSELF AS YOU, APPEARING AT THE THEATER WITH TAPE RECORDINGS OF YOUR SONGS!
HE EVEN FOLLOWED YOUR DAILY HABITS TO MAKE THE ROLE LOOK CONVINCING! AND HE DIDN'T DARE GRANT AN INTERVIEW FOR FEAR HIS DEEP VOICE WOULD GIVE HIM AWAY!
THAT NIGHT, AT BIG TOWN'S CONCERT HALL...
IT'S NO TAPE RECORDING WE HEAR THIS TIME, STEVE! ISN'T MARLOWE MARVELOUS?
SAVE SOME OF THAT PRAISE FOR ME! AFTER ALL, I GOT THAT INTERVIEW I WENT AFTER!
The End

ODD NEWS ITEMS!

IN COLONIAL TIMES MOST EDITORS OF NEWSPAPERS WERE "MASTER PRINTERS" BY TRADE -- AND MERELY PUBLISHED NEWSPAPERS AS A SIDELINE. THEY ALSO HANDLED SUCH OTHER BUSINESS PURSUITS AS POSTMASTER, MAGISTRATE, LOTTERY AGENT, AND GENERAL MERCHANDISE STOREKEEPER...

I'D LIKE TO LEAVE THIS LETTER WITH YOU FOR POSTING -- AND I'D LIKE TO BUY THE LATEST ISSUE OF THE *NEWSLETTER!*

NEWS SOURCES WERE SO UNRELIABLE IN THE EARLY PART OF THE 19TH CENTURY, THAT PAPERS PRUDENTLY PRINTED UNVERIFIED ITEMS UNDER THE HEADING, "IMPORTANT -- IF TRUE"...

DID YOU SEE THE LATEST "RUMOR" PRINTED IN THE *AMERICAN HERALD*...? WE ARE INFORMED THAT WAR WAS DECLARED BY ENGLAND AGAINST SPAIN!

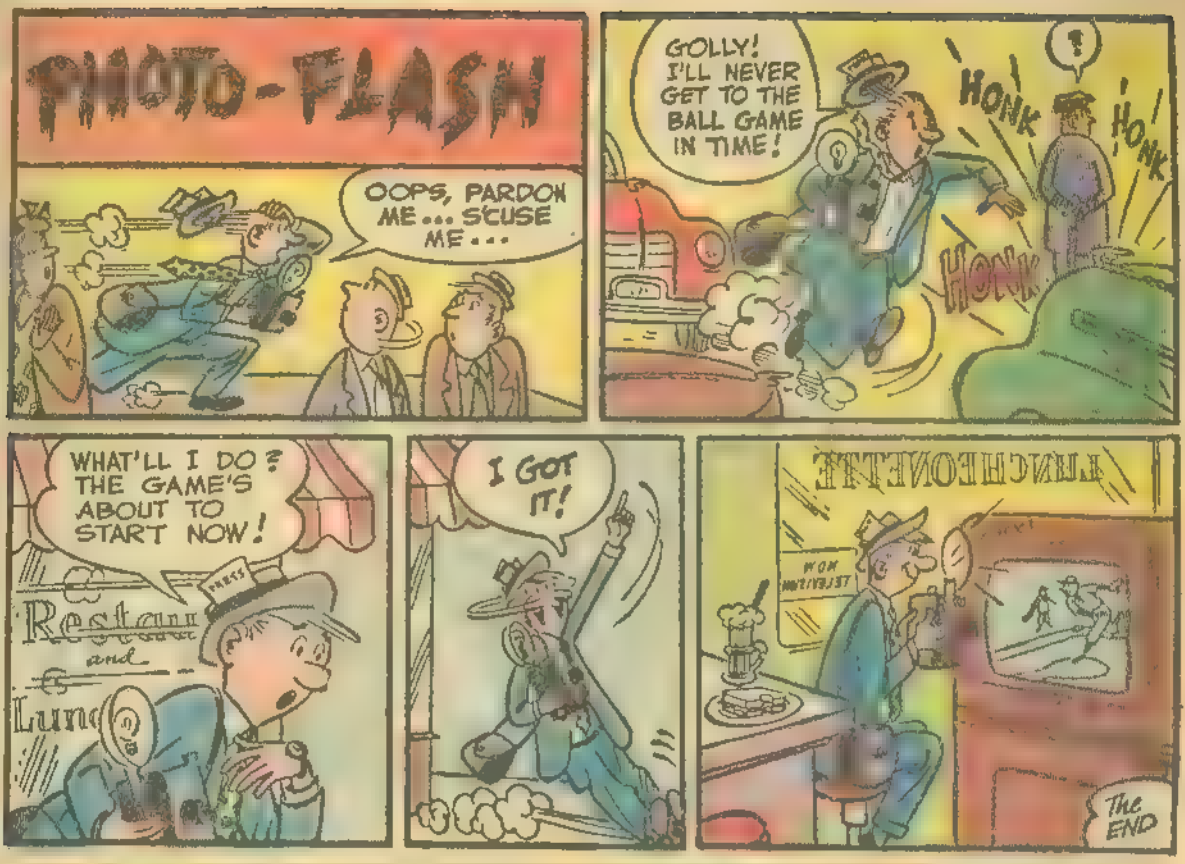
EARLY NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS FAVORED SELLING SUBSCRIPTIONS ONLY BY THE YEAR. TO DISCOURAGE SINGLE-COPY SALES, THEY CHARGED AN "OUTRAGEOUS PRICE"..

A YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION COSTS $7 -- THAT'S LESS THAN 3¢ A COPY. IF YOU BUY EACH ISSUE AS IT APPEARS, THE PRICE WILL BE 6¼¢!

THE *TRUE AMERICAN*, AN ANTI-SLAVERY PAPER PUBLISHED AT LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY, IN 1845, HAD ITS OFFICE FORTIFIED WITH CANNON TO KEEP AWAY CROWDS THAT DISAPPROVED OF THE PAPER'S POLICY AND SOUGHT TO PREVENT ITS PUBLICATION...

I WARN YOU -- MOVE ANY CLOSER AND I'LL OPEN FIRE!

THE TRUE AMERICAN



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MR. DISTRICT ATTORNEY
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MYSTERY IN SPACE
NUTSY SQUIRREL
OUR ARMY AT WAR
OUR FIGHTING FORCES
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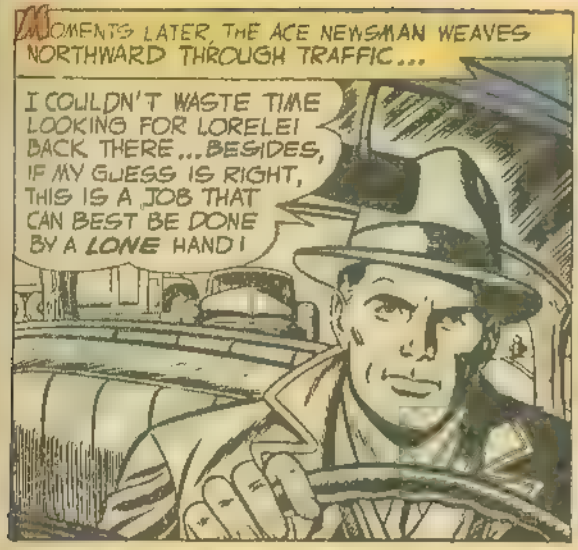
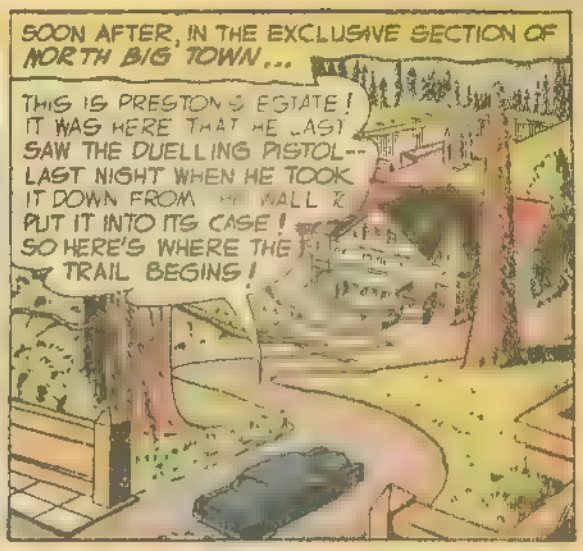
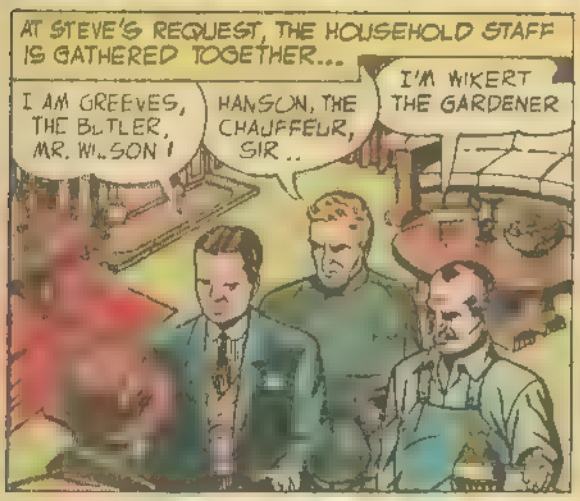
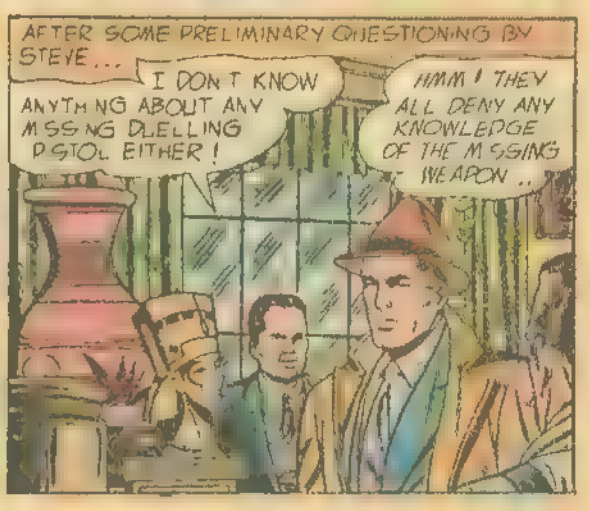
BIG TOWN
THIS 17TH CENTURY DUELLING PISTOL HAS NEVER MISSED KILLING ITS MAN, WILSON! AND YOU'RE NEXT IN LINE!
A SHOW OF CURIOUS AND VALUABLE ANTIQUE WEAPONS IN FAMED EXPOSITION HALL IN BIG TOWN--AND THE KILLING SOME WEEKS BEFORE OF A DEPUTY SHERIFF IN A NORTHERN SUBURB. WHAT CONNECTION COULD THESE TWO ITEMS HAVE WITH EACH OTHER? NEWSMAN STEVE WILSON DISCOVERED THE SPECTACULAR ANSWER--THE MOMENT HE FACED.
The GUN THAT NEVER MISSED!

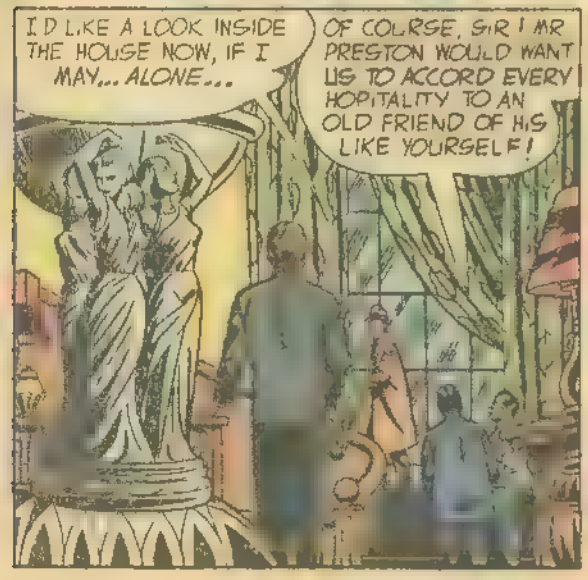
IN EXPOSITION HALL IN BIG TOWN, ONE OF THE EXHIBITORS--WEAPONS-FANCIER HARVEY PRESTON--MAKES A DISCOVERY...
STRANGE! MY FAMOUS 17TH CENTURY DUELLING PISTOL--THE PRIZE OF MY COLLECTION--IS MISSING!
AT THAT MOMENT, IN STEVE WILSON'S ILLUSTRATED PRESS OFFICE...
ANY NEWS IN THE CASE OF THE KILLING OF THAT DEPUTY SHERIFF UP IN NORTH BIG TOWN, STEVE?
NOT YET, LORELEI! WHILE WE'RE WAITING FOR SOMETHING TO BREAK, WE'RE TAKING ON ANOTHER ASSIGNMENT!
THERE'S AN INTERESTING SHOW AT EXPOSITION HALL--AN EXHIBITION OF ANCIENT WEAPONS--THAT SHOULD MAKE A GOOD PICTURE-SPREAD!
SOUNDS EXCITING, STEVE!
SHORTLY, IN EXPOSITION HALL, A HUGE, ARMORY-LIKE BUILDING DEVOTED MOSTLY TO SHOWS AND EXHIBITIONS...
WHEW!! I'VE NEVER SEEN SO MANY GUNS!
CIRCULATE AROUND, GAL, AND SEE WHAT ITEMS OF INTEREST YOU CAN PICK UP! I'LL DO THE SAME...
SOME MINUTES LATER, AS STEVE MEETS AN OLD FRIEND OF HIS--MILLIONAIRE HARVEY PRESTON...
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU HERE, MR. PRESTON! BUT, WHAT'S WRONG? YOU SEEM BOTHERED BY SOMETHING...
YOUR NEWSMAN'S EYE IS AS KEEN AS EVER, STEVE!
HARVEY PRESTON PRIVATE COLLECTION
IT'S NOT AN IMPORTANT MATTER, AND YET--WELL, MY FAMOUS 17TH CENTURY DUELLING PISTOL IS MISSING! I PUT IT IN THIS CASE MYSELF LAST NIGHT...
YOU THINK IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN STOLEN?
SUDDENLY, THE CRACK NEWSHAWK WHIRLS ON HIS HEEL...
MAYBE IT IS IMPORTANT, MR. PRESTON--MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOU THINK! BUT I HAVE NO TIME TO EXPLAIN NOW! I'LL SEE YOU LATER!
NOW WHAT DID I SAY TO MAKE HIM LEAVE SO ABRUPTLY?

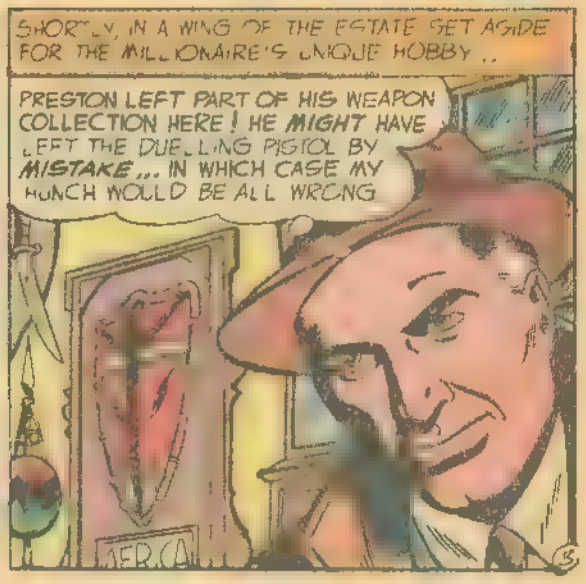

MOMENTS LATER, THE ACE NEWSMAN WEAVES NORTHWARD THROUGH TRAFFIC...
I COULDN'T WASTE TIME LOOKING FOR LORELEI BACK THERE...BESIDES, IF MY GUESS IS RIGHT, THIS IS A JOB THAT CAN BEST BE DONE BY A LONE HAND!

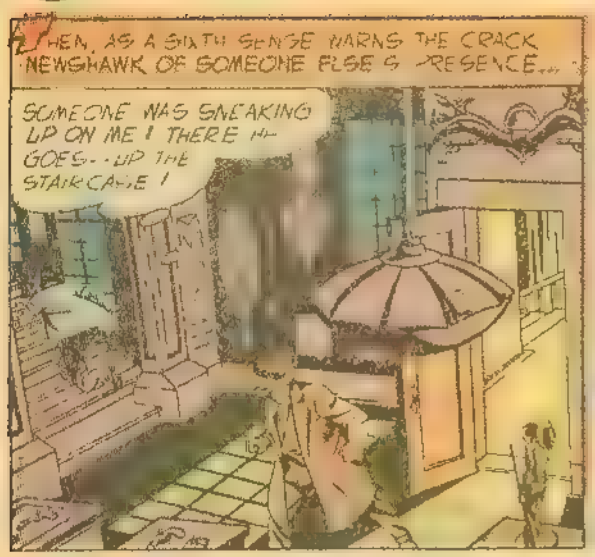

SOON AFTER, IN THE EXCLUSIVE SECTION OF NORTH BIG TOWN...
THIS IS PRESTON'S ESTATE! IT WAS HERE THAT HE LAST SAW THE DUELLING PISTOL-- LAST NIGHT WHEN HE TOOK IT DOWN FROM THE WALL TO PUT IT INTO ITS CASE! SO HERE'S WHERE THE TRAIL BEGINS!

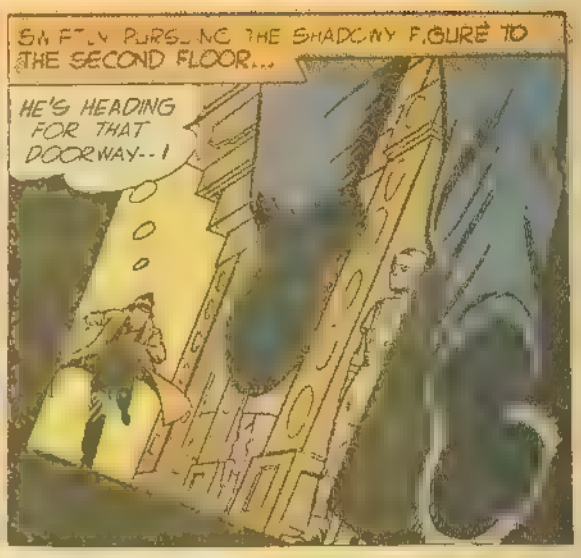

AT STEVE'S REQUEST, THE HOUSEHOLD STAFF IS GATHERED TOGETHER...
I AM GREEVES, THE BUTLER, MR. WILSON!
HANSON, THE CHAUFFEUR, SIR..
I'M WIKERT THE GARDENER

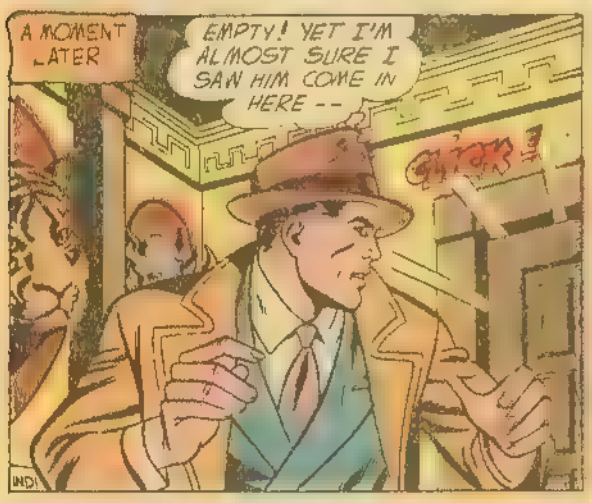

AFTER SOME PRELIMINARY QUESTIONING BY STEVE...
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT ANY MISSING DUELLING PISTOL EITHER!
HMM! THEY ALL DENY ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THE MISSING WEAPON..

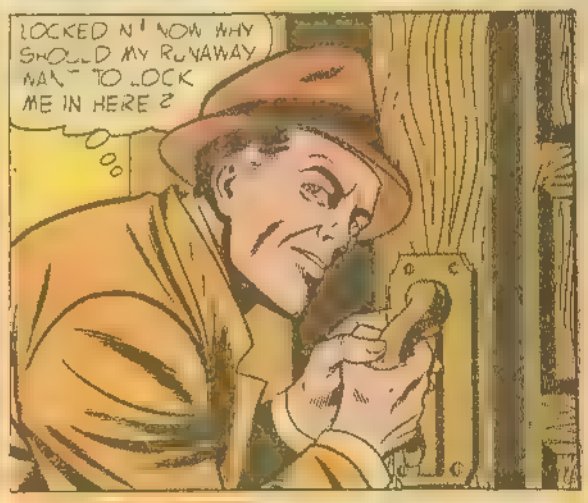

I'D LIKE A LOOK INSIDE THE HOUSE NOW, IF I MAY... ALONE...
OF COURSE, SIR! MR. PRESTON WOULD WANT US TO ACCORD EVERY HOSPITALITY TO AN OLD FRIEND OF HIS LIKE YOURSELF!


SHORTLY, IN A WING OF THE ESTATE SET ASIDE FOR THE MILLIONAIRE'S UNIQUE HOBBY..
PRESTON LEFT PART OF HIS WEAPON COLLECTION HERE! HE MIGHT HAVE LEFT THE DUELLING PISTOL BY MISTAKE... IN WHICH CASE MY HUNCH WOULD BE ALL WRONG

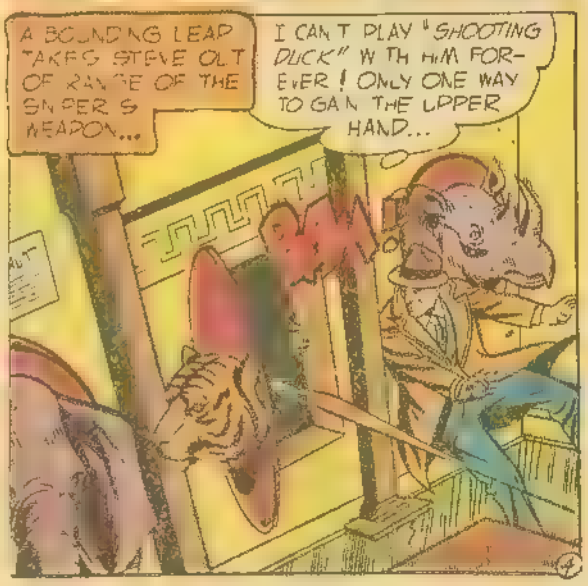

THEN, AS A SIXTH SENSE WARNS THE CRACK NEWSHAWK OF SOMEONE ELSE'S PRESENCE...
SOMEONE WAS SNEAKING UP ON ME! THERE HE GOES--UP THE STAIRCASE!

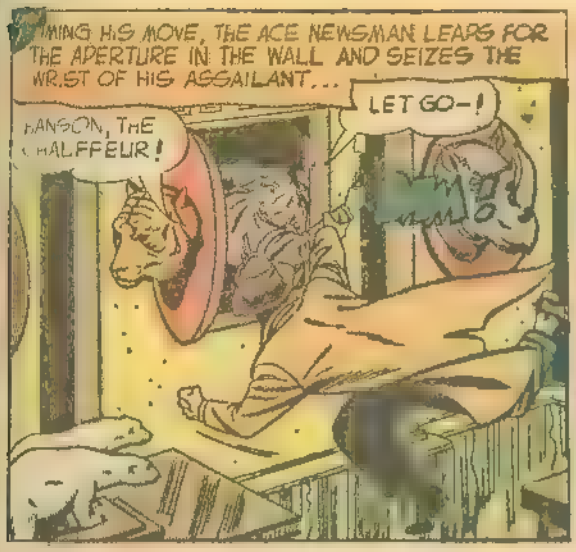

SWIFTLY PURSUING THE SHADOWY FIGURE TO THE SECOND FLOOR...
HE'S HEADING FOR THAT DOORWAY--!

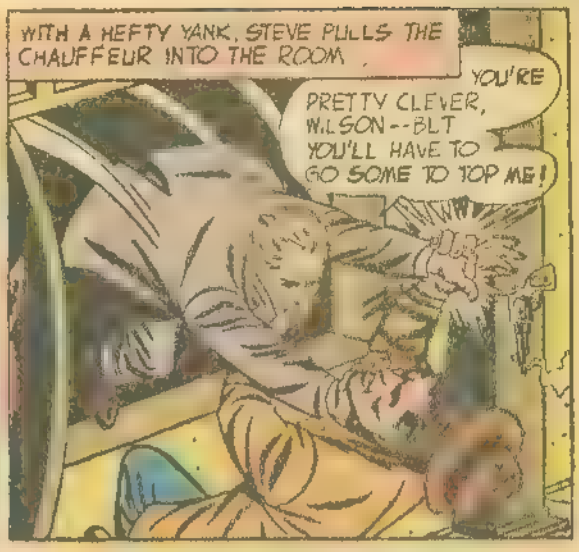

A MOMENT LATER
EMPTY! YET I'M ALMOST SURE I SAW HIM COME IN HERE--

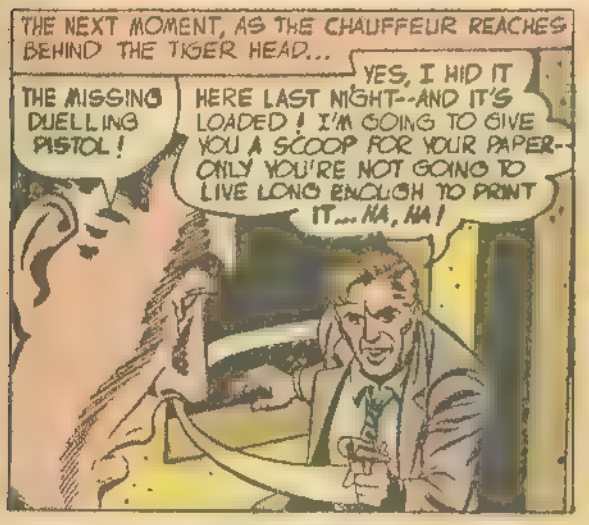

LOCKED IN! NOW WHY SHOULD MY RUNAWAY WAIT TO LOCK ME IN HERE?

HUH? THAT TIGER HEAD MOVING ASIDE AND A REVOLVER AIMED POINT-BLANK AT ME!

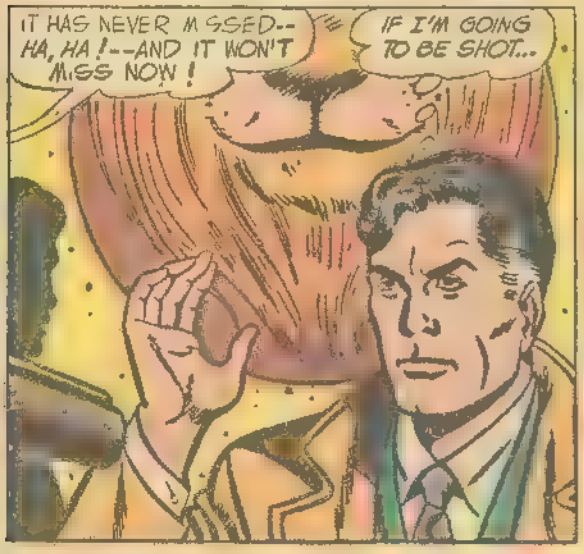

A BOUNDING LEAP TAKES STEVE OUT OF RANGE OF THE SNIPER'S WEAPON...
I CAN'T PLAY "SHOOTING DUCK" WITH HIM FOREVER! ONLY ONE WAY TO GAIN THE UPPER HAND...


MING HIS MOVE, THE ACE NEWSMAN LEAPS FOR THE APERTURE IN THE WALL AND SEIZES THE WRIST OF HIS ASSAILANT...
LET GO-!
HANSON, THE CHAUFFEUR!

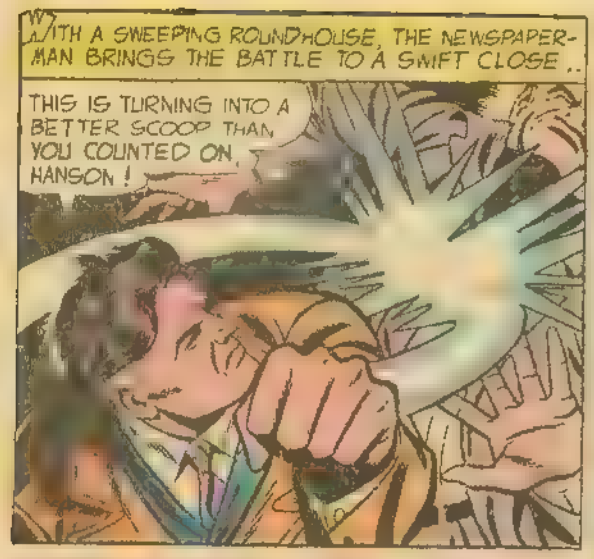

WITH A HEFTY YANK, STEVE PULLS THE CHAUFFEUR INTO THE ROOM.
YOU'RE PRETTY CLEVER, WILSON--BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO GO SOME TO TOP ME!


THE NEXT MOMENT, AS THE CHAUFFEUR REACHES BEHIND THE TIGER HEAD...
THE MISSING DUELLING PISTOL!
YES, I HID IT HERE LAST NIGHT--AND IT'S LOADED! I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU A SCOOP FOR YOUR PAPER--ONLY YOU'RE NOT GOING TO LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO PRINT IT... HA, HA!

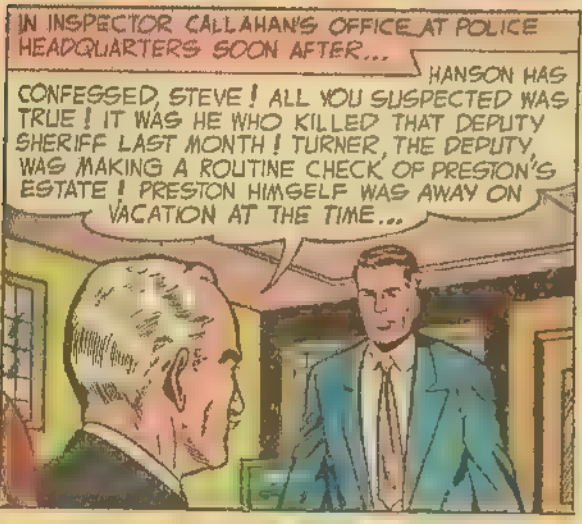
MOMENTARILY HELPLESS, STEVE STANDS FROZEN IN HIS TRACKS...
LISTEN!
THIS IS NO ORDINARY DUELLING PISTOL--IT HAS A HISTORY--A VERY INTERESTING HISTORY! YOU SEE, IT NEVER MISSED KILLING ITS MAN IN ALL THE CENTURIES IT WAS USED!

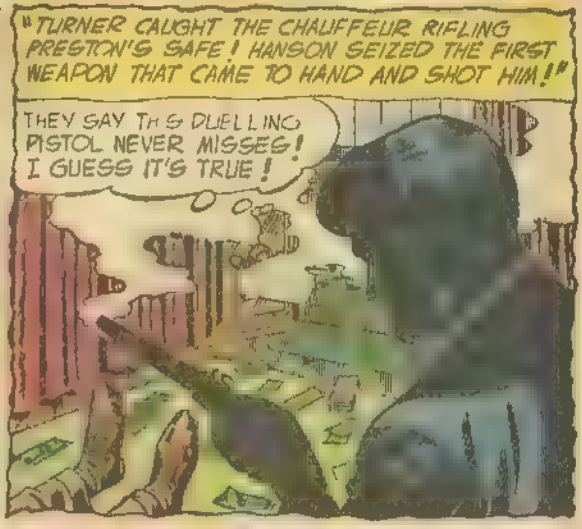

IT HAS NEVER MISSED--HA, HA!--AND IT WON'T MISS NOW!
IF I'M GOING TO BE SHOT...

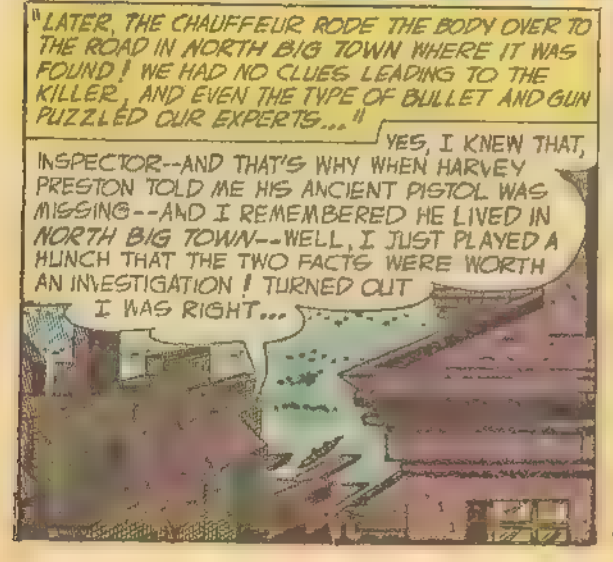
I MIGHT AS WELL BE SHOT FOR A LION AS A LAMB--
HEY!

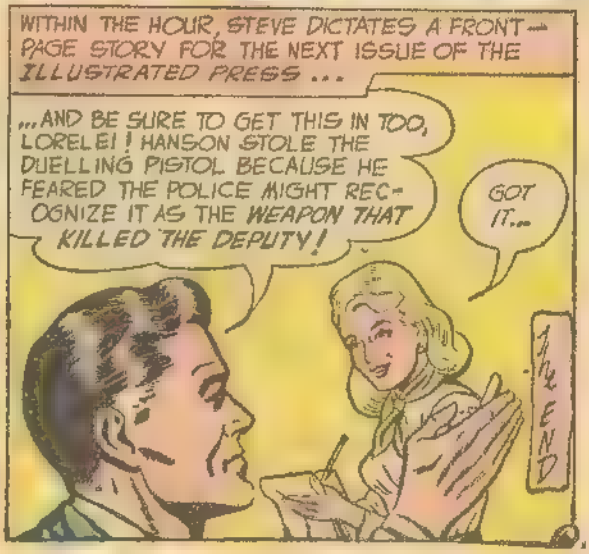

WITH A SWEEPING ROUNDHOUSE, THE NEWSPAPERMAN BRINGS THE BATTLE TO A SWIFT CLOSE..
THIS IS TURNING INTO A BETTER SCOOP THAN YOU COUNTED ON, HANSON!

SORRY I HAD TO SPOIL THE RECORD OF THAT DUELLING PISTOL, HANSON, BUT THERE'S ALWAYS A FIRST TIME FOR EVERYTHING! NOW GET UP--WE'RE GOING TO THE POLICE!


IN INSPECTOR CALLAHAN'S OFFICE AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS SOON AFTER...
HANSON HAS CONFESSED, STEVE! ALL YOU SUSPECTED WAS TRUE! IT WAS HE WHO KILLED THAT DEPUTY SHERIFF LAST MONTH! TURNER, THE DEPUTY, WAS MAKING A ROUTINE CHECK OF PRESTON'S ESTATE! PRESTON HIMSELF WAS AWAY ON VACATION AT THE TIME...


"TURNER CAUGHT THE CHAUFFEUR RIFLING PRESTON'S SAFE! HANSON SEIZED THE FIRST WEAPON THAT CAME TO HAND AND SHOT HIM!"
THEY SAY THIS DUELLING PISTOL NEVER MISSES! I GUESS IT'S TRUE!


"LATER, THE CHAUFFEUR RODE THE BODY OVER TO THE ROAD IN NORTH BIG TOWN WHERE IT WAS FOUND! WE HAD NO CLUES LEADING TO THE KILLER, AND EVEN THE TYPE OF BULLET AND GUN PUZZLED OUR EXPERTS..."
YES, I KNEW THAT, INSPECTOR--AND THAT'S WHY WHEN HARVEY PRESTON TOLD ME HIS ANCIENT PISTOL WAS MISSING--AND I REMEMBERED HE LIVED IN NORTH BIG TOWN--WELL, I JUST PLAYED A HUNCH THAT THE TWO FACTS WERE WORTH AN INVESTIGATION! TURNED OUT I WAS RIGHT...


WITHIN THE HOUR, STEVE DICTATES A FRONT-PAGE STORY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS...
...AND BE SURE TO GET THIS IN TOO, LORELEI! HANSON STOLE THE DUELLING PISTOL BECAUSE HE FEARED THE POLICE MIGHT RECOGNIZE IT AS THE WEAPON THAT KILLED THE DEPUTY!
GOT IT...
THE END

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OUR 60th YEAR

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We Trust You

60th YEAR

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60th YEAR

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Wilson Chem. Co., Dept. 1-115, Tyrone, Pa. Date _____

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Name _____ Age _____

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Town _____ No. _____ Zone _____ State _____

Print LAST Name Here

Paste on a postal card or mail in an envelope NOW

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Be among the first to have this valuable set of United Nations Stamps. Your friends will envy you for it and want to buy the set from you. It will become one of the most prized sets of any stamp collection. But you must hurry if you want to get these 4 United Nations Stamps FREE. This special offer may have to be withdrawn soon. Rush coupon NOW with 10¢ to help cover postage and handling. If coupon has already been clipped, send 10¢ DIRECT to: LITTLETON STAMP COMPANY, Dept. 3-NC, Littleton, New Hampshire.

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YOURS FOR ONLY 1¢

THIS STUNNING ASSORTMENT OF **21** ALL-OCCASION GREETING CARDS! YOU WON'T BE ASKED TO RETURN IT!

Just to prove how easily a few spare hours CAN EARN YOU $50 CASH!

Never before a "get-acquainted" offer to match this! We want to prove you'll find it easy as pie to take orders for exquisitely-designed ALL-OCCASION CARDS. And also show how quickly you can make $50.00 in cash profit — and even more — just by spending a few hours now and then taking orders from your friends, neighbors and others. So here's the astonishing offer we're making:

Fill out and mail the coupon below. We'll promptly send you this beautiful new box of All-Occasion Cards as illustrated. Yes, JUST ONE SINGLE PENNY is all you pay for 21 beautiful cards and envelopes that would usually retail at $2 to $3 if bought separately.

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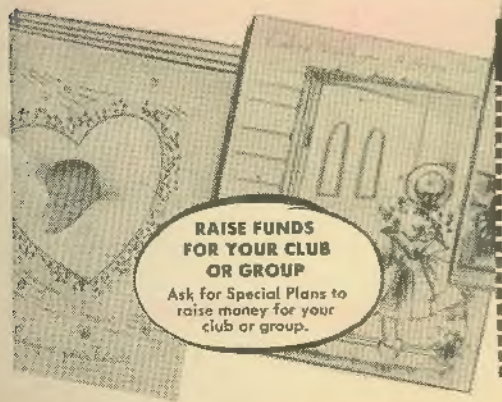
ONLY ONE TO A FAMILY! LIMITED OFFER!

This special offer is made to men, women, boys and girls for one reason: to let you see for yourself how easy it is to make lots of extra spending money with this wonderful selling plan. So our offer is strictly limited, and includes additional Greeting Card Assortments ON APPROVAL, together with complete MONEY-MAKING PLAN and FREE Personalized Imprint Samples. But you must hurry — this offer may not be repeated.

ARTISTIC CARD CO., INC.
850 Way Street, Elmira, New York

In Canada, write 103 Simcoe St., Toronto 1, Ontario



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*City & Zone*_____ *State*_____

☐ Check here for Club or Group Fund-Raising Plan

Big 4-Bat TABLE TENNIS SET

Official size set with 4 Bats, 2 Balls, net, posts and rules of play. All you need for the game of Doubles or Singles.

Nothing to build. Just attach wings, light fuse and away it goes. Flies 500 ft. high. Comes complete with engine and jet fuel.

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You can perform eye-opening feats of "Chemical Magic" with this exciting new Chemcraft Chemistry Set. Magic book, instructions included free.

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For Boys and Girls

A guaranteed watch. Handsome Chromium case, unbreakable crystal, genuine leather strap. This attractive wrist watch is given without cost.

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I Will Send You PRIZES Like These

WITHOUT ONE CENT OF COST

20 PIECE FISHING OUTFIT

This great outfit includes 4 ft. glass rod, strong pistol grip handle, nylon line, click reel, hooks, all accessories.

I have been helping boys and girls get prizes and earn money for 37 years. Shown here are just a few of the wonderful prizes you can get without a cent of cost for selling my famous Vegetable and Flower Seed Packs. Any of these prizes or your choice of over 50 others shown in my Free Prize Book are given for selling just one 40 pack order of Seeds at 15c a pack. Many boys and girls sell their packs in one day and get their prizes at once.

A great outfit that contains powerful 64-inch Bow, 4 feathered Arrows, Target face and complete instructions.

Official-Size • Official-Weight BASKETBALL

Sturdy valve-type ball. For indoor or outdoor use.

Hurry—Be First in Your Neighborhood

Everybody wants American Seeds—they're fresh and ready to grow. You'll sell them quickly to your family, friends and neighbors and get your prize at once, or, if you want to make money, keep $2.00 in cash for each 40 pack order you sell. GET BUSY, send coupon today for my Big Prize Book and Seeds.

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Paste coupon on postcard or mail in envelope to AMERICAN SEED COMPANY, DEPT 521, LANCASTER, PA.

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This swell outfit includes Camera, Flash Gun and free Film. Has Graf Lens. Takes pictures black and white or color. Makes beautiful enlargements.

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Heavy gold-plated, over 13" long. Play bugle calls, marches and songs without lessons. Case and instructions included.

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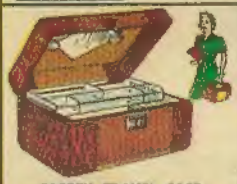
A precision-built Microscope Outfit. Has 60 power optical lens, slide glass and specimens. Don't miss this great outfit.

Prize Winner Gary Fisher says:

"I hardly know how to thank you for the $250 first prize and the Archery Set, Flash Camera and other prizes. Selling American Seeds was easy and it sure did pay off."



PRETTY TRAVEL CASE

Overnight Case with removable tray. Has mirror, lock and key.

GOLD-PLATED LOCKET SET

Pretty necklace with matching expansion bracelet, both gold plated. Each locket opens and holds two photographs.

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